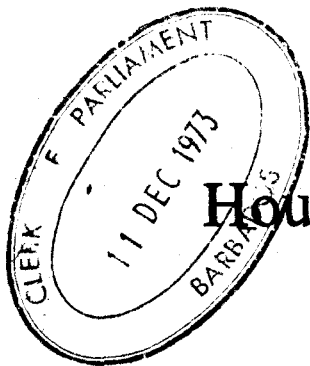




THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971 - 76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 29th February, 1972

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.05 p.m. o'clock.

PRESENT

His Honour C. A. E. HOPPIN, (Deputy Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (Leader of the House); Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Agriculture, Science and Technology); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Mr. J. B. SPRINGER; Mr. ELLIOTT D. MOTTLEY; Mr. C. L. BOLDEN. LLB.; Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND; Mr. H. deB. FORDE, M.A., LL.B.; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, (Minister of Home Affairs); Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD, B.A., M.A. (Econ.), (Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, Community Development and Sport).

Prayers were read.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES entered the Chamber and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of Tuesday, 9th November, 1971, and Tuesday, 8th February, 1972, have been printed and circulated, and unless there is any objection, they will be confirmed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, with reference to the Minutes of Tuesday, 8th February, 1972, on page 3 in connection with the Resolution re St. Nicholas Plantation, it is stated that "the Hon. member spoke and moved, seconded by Mr. H. deB. Forde that this Resolution do now pass." The Hon. Minister for Tourism, Information and Public Relations spoke, and then as far as I remember, I spoke immediately after him, but no mention is made that I spoke. I should just like to have that corrected, because later on I am reported as having risen and spoken on a point of order, and I did speak on a

point of order since I was misquoted in what I have originally said. I would like to draw that to Your Honour's attention and ask that the Minutes be amended. The records will prove what I am saying.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member like the Minutes of the 8th February deferred and the amendment made?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minutes of 8th February, 1972, will be deferred until the next meeting of the House.

There being no objection, the Minutes of Tuesday, 9th November, 1971, are confirmed.

MESSAGES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Message No. 1/1972 from His Excellency the Governor-General reads as follows:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor-General has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Scott, he will be proceeding on vacation leave abroad from the 31st of March to the 8th of June, 1972. Their Excellencies will spend this leave in London Washington and New York.

1. Under the provisions of section (29) of the Constitution, the Chief Justice, The Honourable Sir William Douglas, will perform the functions of the office of Governor-General.

A. Winston Scott,
Governor-General,

Government House
Barbados.
28th February, 1972.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to grant the sum of \$21,840 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 35, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Dr. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to grant the sum of \$250,000 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72, No. 34, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 9, asked by the hon. member for St. Peter, is ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

12.15 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS. Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No.33

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 8 - Crown Solicitor - I think

the note is fairly complete, but I believe members want more information and I will give it now.

Supplementary provision in the sum of \$250 is being sought. The sum approved in the current Estimates is \$1,500; of this, at 31st December, 1971 the sum if \$1,337.18 was spent, leaving a balance of \$162.82 and that amount is considered inadequate for the remainder of the year. During the period 1st April to 31st December, 1971 two additional temporary posts of Stenographer were approved; this caused an increase in the use of National Insurance stamps. I beg to move that Head 8 stand part.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I beg to second that.

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

Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again, Sir, in moving the passing of Head 10 - Accountant General - in the sum of \$10,145, the note is fairly explanatory, but it may be as well that I give further information here now. This amount is required to reimburse the Central Purchasing Department for supplying additional office furniture and equipment as detailed below. The items are these:

			\$
1 Addo-X duplex machine	...	...	856
1 Addo-X duplex machine	...	...	485
2 Odhner machines at \$532 each	...	...	1,064
1 four-drawer security cabinet	...	...	1,000
4 four-drawer filing cabinets	...	...	400
3 large single-pedestal desks at \$250 each	...	...	750
2 large double-pedestal desks	...	...	300
5 small single pedestal desks at \$192 each	...	...	960
1 typist's desk and chair	...	...	220
2 swivel chairs at \$67.50 each	...	...	135
3 upright chairs	...	...	275
4 upright side chairs at \$25 each	...	...	200
4 cards for H.C.R. accounting machines at \$360 each	...	...	1,440
1 cabinet for Widows' and Children's records	...	...	425
3 filing cabinets	...	...	1,525
2 drawer card cabinets	...	...	110

Those are the items which are being purchased. The position is that it appears that at the implementations of the payable order system certain needs of the Treasury were not foreseen, but it subsequently became evident that additional furniture and equipment had to be provided without delay if there was to be improvement in the day to day functioning of that Department. These items had to be furnished in order that this payable order system which came

into force in April, 1971 could be carried out. I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt that the new payable order system which was introduced in 1971 has created the necessity for additional staff at the Accountant General's Department, but what Government failed to realise was the system - and nobody wants to criticise it - that the Accountant General's Department has got to be fed by the other outlying departments, and it must mean that as the system has created the necessity for additional staffing in this Department, so it must of necessity create the need for additional staffing throughout. In other words, what Government needed to have done was to have streamlined the entire system, not merely to look at the Accountant General's Department and try to meet their requirements and turn closed eyes to other Departments because the payable order system, good as it may be, is creating very considerable hardship on conscientious members of staff who have served in the various Departments for many years, and we are asking the Government to look into this to see what Departments require staffing as well, because of the introduction of this system.

It has been going on long enough now that we feel Government could have carried out an assessment of the scheme to see how far it has affected this Department, what arrears have cropped up in a particular Department, and find out that this has not been brought up to date, and I am sure here and there it must be pointed out that the situation has arisen because the officer who formerly did this particular branch of work in the Department has had to be shifted to cope with the extra load that the new payable order system has brought about.

12.25 p.m.

We would like the Government to look into this matter, so that other Departments can be serviced as easily as the Accountant General's Department.

Mr. E. E. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, it is good to see that provision is being made for additional equipment for the staff at the Accountant General's Office. One would sincerely hope that this would be a means of increasing the speed and efficiency of the staff. I know of a number of cases, and one in particular, where a person - of course, the person was not in the higher echelons of the Service, as a matter of fact, she was a person employed at the bottom of the ladder as it were - retired from the Service for over two years and, so far, repeated checks at the Accountant General's Office have not yet been able to get the woman's gratuity or pension.

I think that some thought should be given to this matter and an effort made to speed up things and assist people who are poor and obviously in need of money when they qualify for it. Checks have been made over and over again; the file has been shuttled between the Accountant General's Office and the Audit Department, and nobody seems to be able to

say when she will get her pension. I think this situation should be righted immediately. If the Government is going to provide the surroundings which would be conducive to good work and proper working conditions, then I feel that all of the matters which come before the Accountant General and his Staff should be handled as expeditiously as possible.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a brief contribution. We come to this Honourable House from time to time with Establishment Orders quite regularly, and the Government is only too willing, when it is drawn to its attention that there is need for more staff, to create the necessary staff; so the hon. member for St. Peter need not worry about that. Wherever possible a case is made out for additional staff in any Department, and the Establishments Officer is satisfied that there is need for either temporary or permanent staff, this Government introduces an Establishment Order.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. member for St. Lucy, no one is more concerned about that state of affairs than the Hon. Minister of Finance himself. Everybody knows that this is purely a Civil Service matter. They know that John Browne will retire from the Service three or six months from today; they have his birth certificate and they know when he is going to retire. This Government is very often perturbed when a citizen who has worked for his country must wait nine months, ten months or a year before he gets his little gratuity and pension to which he is entitled. The Prime Minister has complained to the civil servants about this, and we have drawn it to their attention that in every Ministry and Department they must know who is going to retire and how many months from a particular date. They can begin to process his file and go through the necessary formalities to enable him to get his gratuity and pension early. The Government feels that there is no reason for Mr. John Browne not getting his gratuity and pension within days after he retires from the Service.

Now, the Prime Minister said that they are an army of occupation, and in many respects he is right, because the computation of pensions and gratuities is not a matter for Ministers. You do not keep a dog and bark, too. You must have civil servants who must show an interest in the person who was employed in the Service. I take this opportunity to impress upon civil servants that they must take an interest in this matter. I think the hon. member for Christ Church West will know that politicians have nothing to do with the discipline or appointment of civil Servants. (*Asides*) Civil Servants must see to it that those who retire from the Service get their pensions and gratuities within the shortest possible time after such retirement. I have known of countless cases, because when I was the Attorney General I had to move Heaven and earth to get pensions and gratuities for people who had earned them. The hon. member for St. Peter has been in here a long time and has taken part in discussions on several Establishment Orders.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I thought I had made myself clear that this amount was to reimburse the Central Purchasing Department who were called upon to provide additional furniture and equipment not only for the existing staff, but for the additional temporary staff who were urgently needed to perform certain accounting functions consequent upon the introduction of the payable order system in April, 1971. You will remember, Sir, that only last week, as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has said, an Establishment Order Establishing certain pensionable posts in other Departments of Government was dealt with in this Chamber. Such Establishment Orders are brought here periodically and from time to time.

The question that Head 10 - Accountant General - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 37 - Item 41A - in the sum of \$174,000 stand part. The note is very explanatory, and I know that the Minister will have any additional information which any hon. member may seek at this stage. This service is functioning fairly satisfactorily, Sir, and it is a very complex matter.

I beg to move that Head 37 stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the system presently employed with these school tickets, as I understand it, is working not quite satisfactorily in everybody's view. We agree that there will be problems in any new system that is introduced from time to time, and when these problems are brought to light some attempt can be made to overcome them. I believe that the bus concessionaires are reasonably happy with the scheme, except that payments are not forthcoming as quickly as some of them would really like.
12.35 p.m.

As I understand it, these concessionaires have gone to very considerable expense in having the tickets printed, and then they are turned over to the Ministry, and as we know, in dealing with Government departments, it is not on a cash basis, and we know that the bus companies would have to borrow money from banks or from some source to invest in the purchasing generally of the large quantities, and they have to do this more so because in printing, the question of volume plays a very important part where cost is concerned. We know very well that the three concessionaires will do like most Barbadians and try to hold their chest high whether or not something is in the belly, but they would hardly like it to be known that they go to Government crying when money is really needed to back themselves up

with the many requests that are made on them by the banks; so we would like to know that the Government does all that is possible to expedite payment to the concessionaires for the tickets. There is also the question of which school children are not paying the reduced fare since the introduction of the ten cents per day scheme. It would be well if the Minister could give what information he has at his disposal. I should like to know if every school child regardless of what school he is attending can purchase a ticket and travel for ten cents a day. Nobody is objecting to the voting of the money, but we would like to know that it is to the benefit of the entire country.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could just reply briefly, I am not aware that concessionaires are finding it difficult to obtain their payment for tickets supplied. I promise the hon. member that I will investigate this and pass on to him any information I have, and if there is a problem, I will take any necessary corrective measures.

On the question of whether all school children are permitted to travel for the maximum fare of ten cents, may I say that there is no restriction on children from any particular school from making use of this provision. This was a service provided for all school children in private or government schools whether at primary level or any higher level. There is no restriction imposed as to the type of school concerned so long as there are school children travelling to and from school; but in respect of the first matter, I will investigate this, and any information which comes to hand, I will certainly pass on to the hon. member.

The question that Head 37 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 37 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 37(8), this is a new item, Counsel for Legal Education. Again the note sets out the relevant points. It is a question of Barbados supplying its portion of the agreement, and the Minister of Education will give any additional information if necessary.

I beg to move that Head 37 - Ministry of Education (8) Scholarships, Grants and Subventions, stand part.

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

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

Head 39 - Ministry of Health and Welfare - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are several items under this Head; Item 20 - Temporary

Staff and Substitutes, Item 118 - Laundry Allowance, Item 135 Co-ordinated Applied Nutrition Programme and so on. I think of all the items, this is the only one that really needs a little more information, since the other items have all been threshed out here on numerous occasions, and hon. members will have an opportunity of doing it again very shortly when the Estimates are being considered. (Mr. HINDS: Don't deal with that; give us what information you have.) I will go the long way and give the hon. member all the information. Under Item 20 - Temporary Staff and Substitutes, the sum of \$141,574 was provided under this Item as remuneration for staff required to act while the holders of posts in the Ministry, Health Centres, Maternity Hospitals, the Lazaretto, District Hospital and District Medical Services are on leave. There is also a Training Programme for nursing staff at the Tercentenary School of nursing and substitute staff is obtained very often at salaries above the minimum of the nursing assistant grade owing to qualifications.

12.45 p.m.

It should be noted that apart from the regular annual leave several members of the nursing staff have been proceeding on overseas leave and have been requesting extensions of such leave on half price as well as on no pay. During the first half of the financial year expenditure averaged \$19,000 per month and consequently supplementary provision of \$86,400 was granted. During the next three months to December, 1971 it has been observed that the monthly expenditure had risen to approximately \$30,000. On that basis the amount of \$65,000 is considered adequate to meet expenditure to the end of the financial year.

Item 135 - Co-ordinated Applied Nutrition Programme. The amount voted for this Item in the current Estimates is \$28,860 and provision for the payment of salaries and wages and also to meet expenditure incurred with the upkeep of vehicles as well as other general expenses. When the Estimates were being considered it was not envisaged that the number of personnel attached to the Unit would have increased to such an extent, and this is the result of an acceleration of the programme. It should also be noted that during the year two Laboratory Assistants, three Agricultural Assistants and one Medical Secretary were recruited at salaries ranging from \$180 to \$300 a month. Expenditure at 31st December, 1971 was \$37,466 and was incurred at the rate of approximately \$3,050 per month. On that basis the sum of \$7,750 is required to supplement this Item.

Item 139 - Medical Aid Scheme. The sum of \$20,500 was provided in the current Estimates to assist persons with medical and surgical treatment not normally available in Barbados. When the Estimates were being prepared it was estimated that there would be 33 patients who would have been sent overseas, with approximately 10 of them requiring escorts. At the end of December, 1971 the entire vote had already been committed with 19 patients having received treatment in Jamaica, 10 of which were escorted.

It should be noted too that in June, 1971 the sum of \$6,679.28 was paid to the Montreal Children's Hospital as medical expenses for patients and expenditure of this magnitude was not anticipated. It is for that reason we are asking for this supplementary of \$4,000 at this stage.

Item 154 - Utilities. At the end of December, 1971 the amount expended under this Item was \$6,491. Item 156 - Maintenance of Vehicles - I think is clearly set out. (Mr. HINDS: Those Items are all right). Item 118 - Laundry Allowance. (Mr. HINDS: That, too, is all right). It seems as though the Acting Deputy Leader of the Opposition is satisfied with the information provided. I beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, there are a few very small points I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister. At Item 20 - Temporary Staff and substitutes - they are asking for \$65,000, and the note reads:

Many temporary posts have been required during the year for the efficient service of the Health Centres, Maternity Hospitals, District Hospitals and Clinics throughout the island especially since the training programme for nursing staff has been started.

I wonder if the Minister is in a position to tell what relation the establishment of the Home for the aged at the Pine now bears with all this; if the staffing of that institution will come under this Head and, if any provision whatsoever has been made for it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member will give way, the Old People's Home is administered by the National Assistance Board which is separate and distinct from this. In this supplementary there will be no provision whatever for the Old People's Home which is under a different administration entirely.

Mr. HINDS: We go on then, Mr. Chairman, to another Item, Item 135. We are told in the note that during the year two Laboratory Assistants, three Agricultural Assistants, and one Medical Secretary were recruited for the unit at salaries ranging from \$180 to \$300 a month. The Minister must be in a position to tell us if these members of staff who have been recruited are performing the functions which they were recruited to perform. In other words, you recruit a member of staff to perform the duties of a Medical Secretary, but after the person is employed as a Medical Secretary the person is called upon to do everything except what a Medical Secretary should do, something completely outside of the person's terms of employment. Dissatisfaction arises and in very many cases, despite the fact that the duties of the Medical Secretary have not been performed, not through any fault of the person recruited, there is the feeling that the person is not adequately paid be-

cause the person is called upon to do other things than for which the person had been recruited.

It is all very well and good, we would like to see and to know that the Unit is properly staffed and equipped, but there is no point telling you that you have recruited three Agricultural Assistants for the Unit when the type of work that you put these people to do bears no relation to the type of training that they had preparatory to their going into the particular field.

12.55 p.m.

I would like to hear if the Minister is in the position to tell us what is the true position with the members of the unit that we are now discussing. These salaries are nothing to boast about. A salary of between \$180 to \$300 a month means nothing in Barbados today. You talk about a Medical Secretary, two Laboratory Assistants and three Agricultural Assistants at salaries ranging from \$180 to \$300 a month. We would like to know from the Minister if these people are merely given titles and if their duties are far from what these high-sounding names bear out. The Minister knows very well that, if this is the case, he will be coming back here year after year and no work will be done to the benefit of the community. That is not what the Minister or any member of this House would like to see. If we are spending money on a project, we would like to know that the community will be getting adequate benefit therefrom. I think that is all under this particular Head that I should raise now.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am in a position to answer that in detail. This comes back to the basic point I have already raised. A Minister is responsible for policy, but the civil servant is recruited and appointed by the Public Service Commission. The Government cannot tell you at any point of time whether Mr. A is doing the job for which he is recruited. If he is not doing his job, then the Head of the Department should report the matter to the Public Service Commission. As far as the Government knows, these officers are doing the job for which they were recruited. No complaint has been made to us that they are not doing the job, and even if it were made to us there is nothing we can do about it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have made a note of what the hon. member has said, and I will draw it to the attention of the substantive Minister when he returns and resumes his office. I know that the Parliamentary Secretary has also made a note of it, and I promise that the matter will be looked into. As the Hon. Minister has said, we can draw it to the attention of the Permanent Secretary, who is one of the officers or advisers to the Public Service Commission, but, as far as the Minister is concerned, he does not have much opportunity, except through the Permanent Secretary, to do anything about disciplining anyone or making any suggestions as far as the Civil Service staff structure is concerned.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to hear the Leader of the House say that he has made notes; the appropriate Parliamentary Secretary is making notes, and that he will refer the matter to the appropriate Minister when he returns. This is something different from what the other Minister said when he pointed out that even if complaints are made they can do nothing about it. That is nonsensical coming from a Minister and particularly a Minister so well placed as the Minister of Communications and Works.

The question that Head 39 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 40 - WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Head 40 - Welfare Department - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 40 - Welfare Department - stand part. This Head deals with Item 24 - Welfare Grants; Item 25 - Old Age Pensions; and Item 27 - Educational Assistance. I think that, as the amounts are substantial, I will give as much information as I have at the moment. With regard to Item 24 - Welfare Grants - the sum of \$550,000 was provided in the current Estimates to pay approximately 8,700 persons cash grants pursuant to the National Assistance Regulations, 1969. This sum was supplemented by \$137,500 in order to cope with the number of people who had risen to 10,000 by the 1st April, 1971. At the 13th December, 1971. At the 13th December, 1971, expenditure was \$513,900, and the number had increased to over 10,439 persons. It should be pointed out that it is difficult to estimate the number of persons who should be granted this kind of aid, and with 16 more weeks to budget for - that is from the time when this document was written - there is an unexpended balance of \$173,600. The numbers are now estimated at 11,000 persons by \$1.25 a week for 16 weeks - \$220,000. The sum of \$46,000 is, therefore, necessary on this basis to supplement this Item for the remainder of the financial year. That amount is really needed, but, in the interest of proper control of expenditure, it is proposed to request only \$41,250 as a supplement.

With regard to Item 25 - Old Age Pensions - the sum of \$3,172,000 had been provided to pay Old Age Pensions to approximately 12,200 persons at a rate of \$5 per week during the current year, but on the 1st April, 1972, the number had increased to 13,000 persons on the register, and supplementary funds amounting to \$30,830 was provided. A recent check revealed that expenditure up to the 14th December, 1971, was \$2,433,605 and the number on the register was 13,000. Payment must be met for another 16 weeks, and the amount required would be \$13,024 by 16 by 5 which would equal \$1,041,920. The balance available under this Item at 14th December, 1971 was \$769,225 and, therefore, the sum of \$272,695 is required to supplement this Item to the 31st March, 1972.

With regard to Item 27 - Educational Assistance - the amount voted under this Item in the current Estimates was \$50,000 and, provides assistance to parents and guardians of pupils of public and approved private schools to meet the cost of textbooks, uniforms, lunches, schools and games fees, and transportation. When the current Estimates were being prepared, it was estimated that there would be 118 pupils in St. Michael, 70 in the South and 160 in the North who would benefit from this scheme, but assistance for increasing numbers had been provided during the year and consequent on this expenditure at 13th December, 1971, amounted to \$49,021, leaving a balance of only \$979.

1.05 p.m.

On the basis of the above rate of expenditure, an amount of \$5,000 is being sought to supplement this item to 31st March, 1972, and necessary measures will be executed to restrict expenditure to the desired level. These are the full explanations.

I beg to move that Head 40 - Welfare Department - stand part.

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

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, we find that Welfare is suffering at the hands of child care, or child care at the hands of welfare. My reason for saying so is that if one were to look or try to find out anything about the functioning of the Welfare Department, there is a crying out for staff; but you will find that despite a situation such as this the few members who are employed in welfare proper are also bound up in child care work. If that is the case, neither welfare nor child care can be adequately and efficiently served. Something needs to be looked into in this respect.

Now we have heard of a request for \$41,250 to supplement our Welfare Grant, that is, our national assistance programme. Now the Minister tells us that at least there are now 11,000 pensioners at \$1.25 per week, but I want to tell the Minister, and I mean it when I say it, that before last year's Estimates were presented to this Honourable House, Government had been advised that there were then 11,000 at \$1.25 per week requiring an amount of \$728,000 to cover for the year, and all that came out was \$550,000 and as a consequence we have been getting these supplementaries; but what we are saying is that the Minister has in his notes that at this particular date the situation changed from this to that, on 14th December something happened, and on some other date something happened. It is not true. Immediately prior to 9th September last year, Mr. Chairman, this public assistance money was spent particularly in the City of Bridgetown and the people to whom it was doled out were not whom you would call authorised people.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, I am not quite clear what the hon. member is referring to. He said that this money was spent in the City of Bridgetown. What I want to draw to the hon. member's attention is that the sum of \$550,000 was provided in the current Estimates to pay approximately 8,700 persons. This is the basis on which the Estimates were made up and it was supplemented by \$137,500 in order to cope with the numbers which had risen to 10,000 by 1st April, 1971. The hon. member is making some reference which I am not quite clear about, and I would be glad if he would elaborate and clarify.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, what you will find is that every now and again we will be asked to supplement various sums under this Head and various figures and dates will have to be produced to tell us that at this time it was so much as against some other time. We are saying that there is no growth as is given to us here. Now I am sure the Minister will agree that the amount now required is to round off the original figure. I do not want to worry the Minister as such. He has made provision for 11,000 persons at \$1.25 per week; there are some who receive \$1.50 per week and there are some special cases that receive \$5.00 per week. I wonder if when the Minister was presented with these various dates as to the growth of the 11,000 figure he was not supplied with the corresponding figures to show the growth rate of the number now receiving \$1.50 and the special cases receiving \$5.00. We would be grateful to the Hon. Minister for that type of information.

1.15 p.m.

It would make a lot of sense in our view, when put alongside of the 11,000 that we know receive the \$1.25 per week.

I do not propose to deal with Old Age Pensions - Item 25, but I prefer to go to Item 27 - Educational Assistance. I would like to see, Mr. Chairman, that greater consideration is extended to pupils in the north, some more assistance given with the acquiring of text books for children. I believe that it might be said that unless parents make application Government would not know the need exists, but that is not true. We know that there are very hard cases that have been turned down time and time again, and this is the time when everybody is trying in whatever way to push their children into some school or other but we know the cost of the text books at some of these schools is great, and another thing that is crippling many of the parents is the continual change of uniforms by some of these schools.

All of these things do create hardships for the children, and especially those children who have got from time to time to depend on the little assistance that is given by the Welfare Department, and we are asking that some greater consideration be given. We would like to know that it is made easier for parents to get assistance with the text books, particularly for their children. There are some children who their parents tell you were doing well for the

first two years at school but they cannot understand what has happened with the children. When you look at the term reports and you see the decline in the marks and you start to query the child you will find that the child will tell you it has been attending the school but never had the text books until the last two weeks of the term. When half of the academic school year is spent, some children have not got the text books, so what results can one expect from these children? We would like to know that every possible assistance is given them to enable them to get these text books, and we are asking Government not to turn back any case in which a request is made.

The Welfare Officers will tell you they are over-worked, they cannot see so many people in the course of a single day, and the people who go to the Welfare Officers have got to provide bus fare, lose a day's work in many cases to meet the Welfare Officer. All of these things create hardships and we would like to see them eased, if possible, by increasing the number of Welfare Officers. We know they are short-staffed in the Welfare Department for this type of thing, but the Department must be adequately staffed to cope with the number of requests made of them. We would like to see that everything is done to assist these poor people.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was in the Budget Speech of 1971 that the Minister of Finance mentioned the Old Age Pensioners and what we considered then to be inadequate and promised to review the position of the old age pensioners with the possibility of giving them more aid during the financial year. The financial year is almost at an end and I do not believe that these people who have contributed so much to the development of this society have in any way benefited from the statement made by the Prime Minister at that time. We find that in spite of all arguments used for the increase of salaries, whether it be salaries of the civil servants or the salaries of Members of Parliament, and even the people in private industry, we hear from time to time arguments put forward that because of the increased cost of living, and at one stage because of devaluation, civil servants and all workers in various sections of our community had to obtain increased salaries.

In 1961 when the revenue of this country was then \$20 million, I believe I am right in saying that the old age pensioners at that stage received \$2.15; today they receive \$5.00 at a time when the revenue of this country is said to be \$100 million. I believe the \$5.00 they receive came about as a result of a Resolution brought into this Chamber by the member for St. James who at the time was then the senior member for St. James. It was after he brought that Resolution to this Chamber and it was passed that the Government saw fit to increase old age pensions to \$5.00 per week.

1.25 p.m.

Now, even after the pension was increased to \$5 a week, there was a general increase in salaries, both in the Civil Service, to members of Parliament,

and in various sectors of private industries but, unfortunately, the pension paid to the old-age people was not increased. Therefore, today, we are looking forward to hearing from the Government some statement as to when they will increase the pension paid to these people. Make no mistake about it, Sir, these are people who have made a great contribution to the economic development of this country throughout their lives, and I believe there are people who throughout their adult life would be seen to have worked for low incomes and would not have been able to save any money upon which to retire and live happily ever after. Therefore, we on this side of the House beg the Government, on behalf of these poor people, to increase the weekly allowance paid to them from the meagre sum of \$5 to at least \$12 a week.

Mr. Chairman, some two years ago when the member for St. James moved a Resolution to increase the allowance, members on this side then drew it to the attention of the Government that the means test that was used should be revised. Again, we plead with the Government, on behalf of these people, to have it revised. Whatever the Government may have intended to do, or whatever the Minister of Finance may have put into his Budget Speech as an afterthought, we on this side of the House have been asking the Government to do something in this matter even before I became a member of this House in 1969. We have advocated that the time has come when the age at which a person should receive old age pension must be reduced.

Let us consider a person in the Civil Service who, perhaps, leaves school at about eighteen or nineteen years of age and works until he reaches the age of 55 and then retires. Many people today, who can only qualify for a pension at the age of 68, would have worked for their entire lifetime when compared with a civil servant, because they would have left school at the age of thirteen or fourteen. Sir, there can be no justification for retaining the age of 68 years. There are three things that we would like to see: Firstly, an increase in the weekly allowance from \$5 to at least \$12; secondly, we would like to see the means test reviewed and increased; and, thirdly, we would like to see the qualifying age reduced from 68 to at least 65. These are the ideas which I throw out to the Government. I know I will be told that some of them were in the Party's Manifesto, but nonetheless I put forward these as the ideas which we in the Opposition would like to see put into effect.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have heard the hon. member for the City, but, before I deal with the remarks made, I should like to refer him to interesting reading of the documents on which we went to the people in this country and they gave us overwhelming support. The hon. member for St. Peter referred to 9th September in his speech. It was a day of massacre; that is what I call it. (Asides) Let him read what the party has said. (Asides) It was 18 - 6, and you cannot get away from it. The next time it will be 23. I am talking about what this party went to the people of this country on; so when the

hon. member for the City gets up he is not talking anything new. I will read to you what we told the people we will do for them.

Now, when the Democratic Labour Party Government assumed office in 1961, the amount of \$1.15 million was spent on the payment of old age pensions. There was no such thing as Provident Fund or Social Security Pension. Let us stop there for a moment. This Government introduced National Insurance; this Government introduced Sugar Workers' Provident Fund.....

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Absolutely untrue.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: The National Insurance Act is 1966-10. Were you in power in 1966? How can the Leader of the Opposition get up and tell me that I am lying? I was here when it was drafted. Mr. Clerk, pass the Act to the Leader of the Opposition and let him see that the Act was a piece of legislation made in 1966. The Sugar Workers Provident Fund was in 1968. Were you in power then? Could you dare get up and tell me that I am a liar? A bare-faced liar you are!

Mr. ADAMS rose...

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I withdraw that, but to see that the Leader of the Opposition, who boasts of his knowledge as a lawyer, can get up and tell this House that in 1966 and 1967 we were not in power to pass these two pieces of legislation. Mr. Clerk, 1966 - 14 or (15) is the National Insurance Act. Let him see it, and let him be honest enough to get up and withdraw telling me it is not true.

Mr. ADAMS: I am invited to get up, Sir.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: To show you how barefaced the Leader of the Opposition is, he will get up knowing that he is going to tell a lie and deny what he knows to be true.
1.35 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Now, Mr. Chairman, that is persistent ignoring of the Rules of the House.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, did you hear me tell the hon. member that this Government introduced the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund? Did you hear him say it is not true? Is the inference that I am a liar then? I am trying to point out to him - and if the Clerk would pass me the Laws I would show him - that this Government introduced National Insurance and the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, before we get away from this point, just get it clear that I am not denying that the Government introduced National Insurance. I interrupted the hon. member when he said

it introduced the Provident Fund. That is the first point. The Provident Fund was.....

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Is the Leader of the Opposition now admitting that he is not correct? Is he man enough to tell this Honourable House So? I am continuing to read what this Government told the people of this country.

When we came into power in 1961, the total amount of \$1.15 million was spent in old age pensions. "This year" - that is 1971 when the elections were held and this is the document the Government went to the people of the country with - the Government is spending \$3.172 million on old age pensions, having increased the weekly pension from \$2.15 to \$5.00 during its tenure in office. The position of our elderly citizens is being kept constantly under review.

The pension which is paid is basically a subsidy to the relatives of persons over the age of 68 who are no longer able to work to support themselves fully. It also enables the pensioners to retain a sense of dignity, in that they are not entirely dependent on the charity of relatives. The means test whereby the pension is reduced according to the financial ability of the pensioner will be changed to a system whereby more old people will qualify for a full pension. The only possible justification for the retention of a means test is to draw a distinction between wealthier persons and those who are genuinely in need.

The policy of the party is:

(a) An increase in the non-contributory old age pensions and a modification of the means test in order that the amount to which an old age pensioner is entitled will not be decreased."

You did not ask for anything like that. We told the people we were going to do it; so when you get up here thinking you are making political capital out of saying it should be raised from \$5.00 to \$12.00, we have promised the people that according to the economy of the country, we will do this. We are not promising them \$10 or \$12; we can only give them money when the economy can stand it. It sounds good making a political speech and saying that you have asked for \$12 for them, but we run a responsible Government. If the economy can stand \$24, we will give them \$24. If it will stand \$5.50 they will get that. If the economy cannot stand a penny more, they cannot get it. We cannot make money by putting sea water through a machine; so do not think that your concern for old people is better or higher than ours. We do not make money in Barbados; we have not got a mint.

We also told the people of this country that if the economy can stand it, we would create a widow's pension for those outside the National Insurance Scheme. You have not asked for this either. We are giving them 99 times more than what you have dreamt about. We have promised a pension for the widows of deceased public employees in cases where these persons are not otherwise eligible for pensions; and

financial and housing assistance to those persons who wish to look after their own relatives at home, but are unable to do so.

Mr. Chairman, this is the document on which the people repose confidence in this Government and we intend to honour it so far as the economy is concerned, and the people have faith in us that if the economy of Barbados can stand it, then they know they have placed the Government in good hands.

As for the hon. member for St. Peter talking about text books, this is what we said on school children in our programme which we went to the coun- and won on. I will read it for him and I am sorry he is not here. The Government's manifesto to the people of Barbados said that we would distribute..... (Mr. BOLDEN: Are you going to make it a document of the House?) It would be a good document for the House. All of you should have a copy and it should be compulsory reading for the entire Opposition because it would teach you a little socialism.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member seems to have gone off side.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is absolutely no point.

Mr. BOLDEN: It is a point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, this is what he said about secondary education. Among other things we told the people we would "distribute text books on loan to needy children; explore means for the standardisation of text books in order to reduce the costs of such books to parents". We have undertaken to do this and it is a question only of time. We have only been in power in this last instance since October and the people of this country know as they have known for the last ten years that any pledges we have made to them especially in our manifesto we will honour, money and time permitting. So when you hear all this talk from the Opposition, they are all playing that they love the needy, will heal the sick and care for the poor. The people of this country have long known that these cheap political statements are not worth the mouths from which they come. I do not have anything more to say. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to see the Law of 1968 entitled "The Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Act 1968-54" I would like him to make a note of it so that there cannot be any more confusion.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, I am a real lawyer; I am familiar with the laws of Barbados and do not have to ask anybody to find them for me.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: When I said that we had passed these two laws, the hon. member still got up and told the public it was not true. The other Act is entitled "The National Insurance and Social Security Act 1966-15".

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the origins of the Provident Fund do not to my mind fall strictly within this Resolution and we have other matters to debate in that direction later on in the day, but if the Hon. Minister feels he is entitled to a personal explanation because he has been personally attacked, I will give him an explanation. I am not going to attack him any further. He is merely ignorant; he is not telling untruths, he is merely unfamiliar unlike the Prime Minister because after all the Democratic Labour Party started about the Fund that became the Provident Fund. The Hon. Minister is unfamiliar with the series of Acts: The Sugar Industry Rehabilitation and Welfare Act of 1949, the 1951 Act and the 1956 Act. He is unfamiliar indeed with the 1954 Act which was passed by his own Government to deal with the Provident Fund. The Provident Fund money was accumulated for a number of years until there was enough and then this Government was able to pass a law dealing with the distribution. I have never until today heard challenged the Labour Welfare Fund, the Price Stabilization Fund and the other Sugar Funds which rose out of the levy made on the sugar industry 20 years ago, but the Prime Minister will remember that we have the very Minutes of how he spoke.....

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, the hon member knows that these Acts never gave the sugar workers one penny in Barbados; so it is no sense trotting out a number of Acts.
1.45 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Is that a point of order? Just under 5,000 people have been paid out of the money provided by the Act of 1947 which was subsequently added to by the Acts of 1951, 1956 and 1964. There may even be others, Sir, but if you read the 1964 Act you will realise that that was the year in which the Government decided that the money which had been accumulated for the sugar-workers under earlier Acts could be paid out. They contemplated paying it out and they took four years to do it. The hon. member is much too inclined to get into things which he need not get into. I hope the Prime Minister will be man enough to get up and say that it is possible that the Barbados Labour Party was right to accumulate the Price Stabilisation Fund money out of which the quarrel began that started the Democratic Labour Party. I hope he may be man enough to say we did something well when the hon. member behind him told him how he felt about the necessity for accumulating this money. It is interesting to see the hon. members for St. Michael West and St. John discussing together in the House on the same side on an argument such as this.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said he is glad to see the hon. member for St. John and the hon. member for St. Michael West on the same side. The hon. member for St. John and the hon. member for St. Michael West started on the same side, we were always on the same side in politics, we were always socialists. It does not take any particular instance to make you a socialist,

I would say that I have been a congenital socialist, I was born this way. I could not be otherwise, so I do not want any hon. member to remind me of that. I am not getting into the sugar workers debate now, Mr. Chairman, that is a special Item on another Resolution.

On the question of old age pensions, I think the hon. member for the City made some remarks, but I think his thinking is a little bit off cue. Let us be quite frank. The Government of the Labour Party was in power for many years, and "old people" is not anything new that has now come in fashion, they sound as if this is the first time people are getting old in Barbados since they lost power. They passed the first laws saying that people should only get pensions at 68 and 68 is not an age that we have now reached, people have been reaching 68 many years ago. Moreover there is more justification for retaining the age now, after so many years, because we can prove that the health of the people now is better, there is more longevity. People are living longer than they ever lived before, so therefore the point about old age is not the same problem, far from it. I would like to say this, the time has come when the Government should review the whole idea about pensions. The practice of Government people going home at 50 years and drawing a pension should be a memory and no person should be permitted to resign from the Public Service at 50 except for medical reasons. When you reach 65 today you are in better health than you were 25 years ago. Medical science has made it possible that we can live longer and look better and do more at an older age than our predecessors could do, so it is not a question of old age.

Members must bear this in mind, that a Government does not spend all its money on any single item. Old age is only one of the items in the budget. Look at the total amount you are spending on old age. You cannot spend all the money on education, you cannot spend all the money on old age pensions, you cannot spend all the money on social services, you have to distribute the economy and the revenue of your country on the total society. There is no point anybody selecting an item and regarding that item as the only one on which you are going to spend money, you cannot run a country like that. You cannot spend all the money on education, no matter how desirable education is, you have to spend money on roads, you have to spend money on the Fire Brigade, you have a Public Service and you have to look at the whole cake, so there is no point anybody coming here on a supplementary provision and raising these arguments.

The Hon. Minister for Communications and Works made the pertinent point that we are not now producing a budget for old age pensioners for the first time, we went to the people a couple of months ago, you went to the people on these issues. We were elected and elected in larger numbers than you were, so you cannot say now the people regard you as the one to represent them and not us, that may be a challenge to democracy in itself. You have been rejected in that sense. We have been elected to carry this out, so what is the point of saying now that we are putting in a supplementary vote for old age pensions? Do you

expect us now to increase it when we are putting in a supplementary vote? Whom do you want to fool? Do you want us to come back within a month's time and tell you that we had overestimated? We are supplementing the amount of money we provided in the original estimates. That is what the hon. member must know.

Let us look at the pensions now, the whole pension cake has changed. We have a National Insurance Scheme which does not preclude old age pensioners from getting benefits there. Things have changed now, so there is no point in talking now of 65 or 68, a person at 65 will receive National Insurance and when he reaches 68 he will be entitled to an old age pension, and they say that an old age pension is not to be regarded as the means test within the context of National Insurance, so you in the House of Assembly have put in that. What I do not really understand is that the members of the House do not seem to do their homework. They will pass specific laws to answer specific problems and then come back and seem to be criticising them. You have already stated that in the House in so far as old age pensions are concerned, that they will not preclude them from drawing National Insurance, so therefore you are going to get an addition. We have people on pension who work on the docks and some of them are getting over \$200 per month when you take their total pension, and they have not yet reached 68. When a man has gone out of retirement and can still get \$200 per month you must know what that means to the economy of Barbados, because you are circulating an income from retired people at a rate that is in excess of what some people who were active in the economy were circulating before. You must understand these things. A clear study should be made of these things before people talk,

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I listened with rapt attention to the hon. member..... (Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Can you spell the word "rapt"? I did not go to university with you, Walcott and I are in the same boat. You leave out me, you stay in your corner. It was a passionate plea, Sir, in his fancy and flamboyant style, but there is one thing which encouraged me to enter into this debate. He made a very important point. He said only when the economy of the country can stand an increase then they are going to give them \$12, \$24, \$25 or \$50, but as long as the economy cannot stand it, not one red farthing.
1.55 p.m.

Now, the Opposition, according to the Government, has not done a single thing in this country for anybody! We are the worst people. It was our Government in 1961, with a revenue of \$26 million, that paid old age pensioners \$2.15 per week. In 1972, with a revenue of \$104 million, this Government can only pay them an additional \$2.85. Look at the cost of living in 1961 as compared with what it is in 1972. I remember coming into this Chamber to listen to a debate, and I saw Senator Tudor who was at that time in the Opposition - all of them were giants sitting over there. I heard my colleague the hon. member for St. Michael West say that the Prime Minister and

himself were always socialists. I wonder if he can recall that one one occasion he referred to the same Prime Minister as a half-baked economist, and socialist, but this is the dirty game of politics: we are riding good today, so we are in business. On one occasion he referred to the late Sir Grantley Adams as Moses. He is great now.

I cannot understand how the member for St. Michael South Central can get up here and say that they are prepared to honour the document, after reading the Manifesto. Now this is the same Government that won in 1961. They promised the workers in this country resort houses, but they have not built one unit. (*Asides*) You have taken some of the ideas from us. Yes, it was 18 - 6. Are we the only people who have ever lost an election? That is history now. Do you remember that they made the Prime Minister cry in 1956? Every time you open your mouth, instead of getting along with the people's business, you are talking about 18 - 6. What we are now concerned with is doing something in the interest of the country. To come in here and say that we have done nothing for the country is not correct.

Sir, in 1956 we brought down Professor Stockholm to do a survey on National Insurance, but we realised that the country's economy at that time could not stand it so we shelved it. We were thinking ahead and doing things in the interest of the country. We realised that there should be a National Insurance Scheme, but, as the Minister of Communications and Works has said, if the country cannot stand the additional amount of money you will not get a farthing. In 1956 we had the ideas; we felt that the country should have National Insurance, but the country could not stand it and we had to shelve it. We created a jumping-pad, and this Government came along and did their own thing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get down to the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, what I am talking about? The Minister almost read a whole Manifesto and you have not said anything to him, but on this same Resolution you are telling me to get on with it? What do you think I am doing? Do you think I am standing up?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It would appear so to me.

Mr. CRAIG: I am very glad that you can see.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Please continue with the Resolution.

Mr. CRAIG: I was saying that the country at that time could not stand it. Today you are giving old age pensioners \$2.85 more. I remember that Senator Tudor came in here with a little basket with butter, salt fish, milk and so on. I remember the Prime Minister saying that we were feeding the dogs at District A and spending more money on them per week

than the old age pensioners were getting. This Government is doing the same thing today. The Police horses cost more to feed today than the old age pensioners. The same Police dogs that you were critical of are getting more than the old age pensioners and I cannot understand what some members are trying to say.

Now, a tin of Corned Beef cost 54¢ in that day according to Senator Tudor, and we were giving the old age pensioner \$2.15. Today a tin of Corned Beef cost \$1.39, and you are paying the old age pensioner \$5.00 through my initiative by bringing the Resolution here. (*Asides*) You cannot deny that I brought the Resolution in here, and you had to agree with it. You said that the Government increased it, but you were not honest enough to say that the member for St. James brought the Resolution in here and the Government approved it. You have the numbers to do whatever you want, but I want to warn you that whatever goes up will come down, and the same lips that cheer you are ones that jeer you. (*Asides*) You are going to get up one of these days and find blood on your door-steps. You are going to find that the young people in this country are no longer going to be bluffed and pushed around by members on the other side who pretend to be socialist in capitalists' jackets. You are going to get up one morning and find them running you about. You must be honest enough to go on public platforms and say that we are responsible for the economic structure of the country. If you are carry-on from where we left off, then I wish you well in the interest of all Barbadians.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, the hon. member ended on a proverb that what goes up must come down, and he brought to my mind a Jamaican proverb which goes something like this: "The higher monkey climb, the more him show him tail" that deals with the question of going up. First, I want to set the records straight on this Resolution, and I will start with the last thing first. No member, other than a Government Minister, is entitled to bring into this House any Resolution or Bill which might impose a charge on the revenue of the country. It would be very easy, of course, for any member of the Opposition to pick up our Manifesto and see what our principles are and say: "Now, we only have \$100 million relating to revenue to spend in the course of a year." He is going to bring in a Resolution that we spend \$50 million more on Education. What you spend is a question of what you have, and it was quite wrong for such a Resolution to be entertained in this House because we will go on getting the kind of cheap politics referred to today that some hon. member was responsible for something.

Now, the hon. member has tried to equate revenue with old age pensions. If he uses a multiplier of 4, because it is true that when I took over the Government it was \$24.6 million; as Minister of Finance I have raised the level of revenue in the Island and reduced taxes at the same time by stimulating growth in the economy both on the external and internal multiplier until we have a multiplier of 4 and it is over \$100 million. If you apply a multiplier

of 4 to every item in the Draft Estimates, say, in 1960-61, according to his theory we should be spending something like \$8.60 on old age pensions because our revenue has increased by 4 times. Then my salary should be increased by 4 times, too. (Mr. CRAIG: "It is.") You have to be joking. The Governor-General's salary and the salaries of civil servants should have been increased by 4 times. The expenditure on education should have been increased by 4 times. 2.05 p.m.

When I came into this House, Mr. Chairman, the revenue of Barbados was \$10 million and old age pensioners were getting \$1.20 a week under the beneficent Government that he did not even associate with in those days although I believe he was over the age of twenty-one. In 1961 hurriedly before the election, the old pension was raised from \$1.80, that is after eleven years under the beneficent regime, to \$2.15, an increase of 35 cents. What Senator Tudor did was to bring a basket of essential commodities into this Chamber and demonstrate that nothing was done in the eleven years which had elapsed from the time when he and I and the late A.E.S. Lewis of revered memory had written the manifesto for the political party to which none of them had elected to join even as young socialists, young labourites, even the son of the Leader of the Party was not a member of the party then; and when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition talks about the member for St. Michael-West being on the same side, we were always on the same side because I wrote the manifesto and I left the party because it was not implemented. I left it because;.....

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, I will just ask the hon. member to give way; we are not going to quarrel.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: You have to tell the Chairman.

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order. Take your seat. What I want to point out to the Prime Minister is that the hon. member for St. Michael-West said that they are on the same side and I went on to say that the hon. member said that he was a half-baked economist and socialist while he was a whole-baked one; you were always half of something.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No point of order.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: I would not worry to retort. It would be very unkind for me to reply to the hon. member. When the Leader of the Opposition wanted to reinforce something I said, he got up and asked how I could say he had been to second form and I said I never said that, I said second standard; but he calls me a half-baked economist. If he thinks I am a half-baked economist, he had not even gone in the oven yet. Which socialist party the hon. member's father, uncle, aunt, grandfather belonged to? In 1951, Mr. Chairman, we wrote the manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party. They refused to implement it. The Leader of the Opposition talks about funds they had accumulated from 1947. It is unfortunate

for him because he knows and everybody in here should know that in 1947 I was working in the Colonial Office in London, and I am glad that I had the exposure.

In 1947 the Sugar Industry (Price Stabilisation, Rehabilitation and Labour Welfare) Act was sent down from the Colonial Office to all the colonies including Mauritius, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and Antigua. The Seychelles and every sugar-producing country as a condition. This was nothing thought up here in Barbados by any political party. It was model colonial legislation which was a precondition of the cess of \$13.20 being paid to the sugar industry in Barbados, and there were three funds. A sum of \$4.80 was allocated to the Stabilisation Fund, the hon. member who was in Parliament in 1947 assures me that \$4.80 was allocated to the Rehabilitation Fund and the rest to the Labour Welfare Fund, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament; not by any genius of social advancement concocted by the Barbados Labour Party. It was sent down here as it was sent to every colony, and what I quarrelled with them about is that every time I said that the money should not be invested in South Africa and places like that that did not like people like me and the Leaders of the Party, I was ridiculed. I said that the money should be spent here in Barbados. It was not accumulated for any Provident Fund or any other kind of fund. It was just accumulated and invested overseas and I quarrelled with the method in which the monies were being invested, and not one penny was being spent in Barbados. The only thing that was being spent in Barbados was the Rehabilitation Fund which you, having represented a rural constituency, will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, and that went straight back to the sugar factories. The Rehabilitation Fund never at any time has had any money in it because this was a direct subsidy paid back on the basis of £1 per ton of production to the sugar factories; the Labour Welfare Fund went to the Housing Authority to assist with the housing programme and nothing was done with the Stabilisation Fund, except to buy bonds from South Africa, Australia and all the countries who have put up the barriers against migration from people in this area. (Asides) The whole of Rhodesia; Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The hon. member confirms this. I do not have to remind people that I am a Lawyer, because I am that. I am the Minister of Finance now and if I went back to practising law, I would not have to get up and remind people that I am a lawyer. It is like the hon. member getting up and saying "you all don't remember that my name is John Michael Geoffrey Manningsham Adams?"

Mr. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman, what is before the Committee; You called on me some time ago to continue the debate. Call on the Prime Minister to deal with the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will sit. You would not be able to get inside here and tell me what I must do.

Mr. CRAIG: But I will draw it to your attention.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, both....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Both hon. members will kindly take their seats. Let me get the records straight now. I have given latitude to both sides with respect to this Resolution. We have another Resolution and when that is debated you can have the same latitude but I am not going to accept anyone telling me when I must speak or rule. I rule according to my dictates. Let the hon. member continue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member ever since he has been taken into politics has a wonderful facility which the Leader of the Opposition knows. He can make the most trite, inconsequential nonsense sound like a big indictment: "The Prime Minister was driving a car yesterday that costs \$5,000," at the top of his voice, screaming and hollering and you would believe there is something in the laws of Barbados against me driving a car that costs \$5,000! That is the kind of thing, and when he gets up in here and pontificates on things he knows nothing about, you would believe that the world was coming to an end the way he carries on.

Anyhow, Sir, I am going back to the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let us get back to the Resolution.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: Since there has been this amalgamation between the conservative elements and the party to which I belonged at one time, the attack was led off by the member for the City, and his predecessor in office - I see the Leader of the Opposition smiling - who was also his immediate antecedent and was a member of this House used to sit down in something looking like a throne down at the Bridgetown City Council cross-examining women with seven and eight children, old people, and young people asking them all their business, why you let the man do that to you for? When last he gave you money? And then when he had finished all this cross-examination and the indecent exposure of people's business affairs, he would swing around to the Clerk with his feet on the table and say "give the gentleman or give the lady fifty cents"; and this is the one coming in here today talking about \$12. The fifty cents dole, and even the member for St. James has to laugh, was something largesse. That is their concept of society, that you always have to be giving people 50 cents; but those days are done forever, because the time will come in this country.... (Asides) We abolished that system because it was iniquitous and it was degrading to human beings, and everybody in Barbados knows that.

The time will come in this country when we will not need to pay old age pensions. You will remember what the hon. member read out from the manifesto. We do not regard old age pension as a means of supporting a person, because people around the age of 68 years are usually living with their sons or daughters or some other relative, and we regard it as a means of subsidising the families who look after them, because if every old age pensioner after

achieving retirement had to cook and wash for himself, they would not be able to cope, and the families are glad to receive it, and we must relate the kind of social benefits we pay in the country to the total ability of the society to pay.
2.15 p.m.

I just want to repeat, even if it means a criticism of a former Speaker, there is nothing in our Standing Orders against that, it is against Standing Orders for any member of the Opposition or even on our side to bring in a Resolution which will impose a charge on the revenues of the Crown. That is all I want to say. I was not here when it was done, I would have protested against it, and therefore you get all this subsequent backwash of garbage which is being thrown up by people who are surprised to find themselves in here.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before this debate is wound up, I should like to make one or two points clear. The hon. member for St. Peter and the hon. member for the City raised questions which I will answer very briefly. The fact is that the age of 68 is the relevant age, but the means test has been revised, it is no longer \$5, it is now \$7 per week, and it is under review to see whether it should be removed altogether.

In so far as the implementation of the National Assistance part is concerned, the hon. member for St. Peter raised the question of those who receive more than \$5. As far as National Assistance is concerned, full investigations are carried out and payments are made which vary in accordance with the case and the various needs, so there are many who receive more than \$1.25 per week, although that is the normal rate. The Welfare Department exercises its discretion, and in the case of families where both the man and his wife are in receipt of old age pensions, we give consideration to those families that are in dire need, so that although the rate is \$1.25 and the majority would fall under that category, there may be about 200 who receive more than \$5, and that is where the flexibility takes place in the payments of National Assistance grants.

There are some who receive as much as \$14 per week, there are some cases of some who receive \$10.50, \$11.50, \$12.75, so it is not that we are not willing to give them \$12 a week each. We try to assist in very needy cases, and in dealing with the people who receive small pensions, the man who might have worked at a factory for years and gets \$10 a month, we still give him because when you think of \$10 or \$15, and think of a man and his wife, we break it down, we find that they qualify jointly and we make a practical point in granting assistance.

I thought I would just try to clarify that, it is not that the Government is not anxious and willing to do what it can, but this is a problem which all Governments will have, and the matter of old age pensions is under review and will receive attention in the near future.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to contribute to this part of today's proceedings, since I did not think that so much controversy could be caused by a perfectly sensible suggestion that old age pensioners should get \$12 a week. I could not think that members on the other side could speak so fiercely and so long, especially the Minister for Communications and Works into whose portfolio this matter does not fall, on a subject such as this. I know that every lost cause can be taken up by the hon. member for St. Michael South Central and pursued to its illogical end with every resource of invective that he has at his command, but I could not think that \$12 a week for old age pensioners could excite him to the extent that he would trespass upon another Ministry and punish those of us in the Opposition who care about old people to an extent of putting forward a suggestion such as that.

When the Barbados Labour Party left power in 1961 - and I am quoting from the Democratic Labour Party's Manifesto in the latest election - 5% of the Government revenue of this Island was being spent on old age pensioners. Now ten years later only 3% is being spent on the old age pensioners. The arguments which I have heard, and the Prime Minister picked out one or two grains of truth from the great deal of chaff that has been thrown about on his side before he got up to talk, the arguments that I have heard suggest to me that if as the Prime Minister says there will be fewer and fewer old age pensioners as such, then to me that means that you can afford to pay them more and more. If the number of old age pensioners is going down, surely raising the old age pension will be no greater charge on the revenue.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir, the number of old age pensioners will not decrease, whoever reported to him did not report correctly. The number of old age pensioners now is increasing, but I said that in the fullness of time that with social security and everything else we will not need to have old age pensions because everyone of working age would have been drawing two-thirds of their emoluments in the way of pensions to which they have contributed during their working lives. When the hon. member is receiving information let him be sure that it is accurate. That is all I ask.

Mr. ADAMS: No, Sir, the Prime Minister should understand - I was present in the House when he said that - he is not dealing with members of his Cabinet. When he says that in the future there will be less need for an old age pension I understand what he means.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, he was saying just now I said there will be less old age pensions, I said there will be less need for it with the growth of social security.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was not here, I do not think he was in his seat when I introduced this, I took particular pains to state that at the time when the Current Estimates were being considered there were 12,200 persons receiving old age pensions, the number has now increased and it is 13,024.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, since the Prime Minister is going to spell out to me that two and two in demography means four, and that two and two in social security means four, I think I had better start from first principles, I thought I was in fact dealing with second or third principles on a matter like this. Social security will obviously, whether the number of persons of the age to receive old age pensions goes up or not, social security will obviously take care of a greater and greater proportion of the old - since it now embraces the self-employed - therefore what I said was this, that the number of old age pensioners strictly so called will fall.
2.25 p.m.

What I said was that the number of old age pensioners, strictly so called, would fall. It must decrease, because as more and more people are reaching the proper age for Social Security, the number of people who will apply for pensioners and will be awarded money out of pensions must get smaller and smaller. That is what I understood the Prime Minister to say when he said that there would be less need for old age pensions. That is what I hope the Prime Minister would have understood me to say when I said that as, the number of persons entitled to the old age pensions as such grows smaller, you can afford to make the pensions bigger. The payments going out to the old from Government sources or funds controlled by Government are going to increase. Presumably, the population of Barbados must have a tendency to become a little older, since the birth rate boom of 1960 is over. At some stage when all of the children who were born between 1950 and 1960 reach the appropriate age you are going to have a very severe imbalance, I think, in the number of old people vis-a-vis the number of workers. This will come around the year 2000 when National Insurance payments are going to occupy a larger proportion of the public expenditure than they do now ten years before or ten years after. But all of those are long term demographic problems which, again, I am sure the Prime Minister understands.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member said "demographic problems" and I know what he means, because he is presaging that we will be in office in 1990. I do not want to be in office then. The hon. member will get a chance when he is about 77. I think what he meant was demographic problems. I just thought that it was a slip of the tongue, but I am glad to hear that my party will be in power in 1990.

Mr. ADAMS: I did say demographic. Perhaps the dictionary and I are wrong. The Prime Minister can be assured that if his party is in power in 1990, then we will have a lot of democratic problems, because we will no longer have democracy. He can be assured about that. Sir, when we suggest that \$12 is a reasonable amount, it is not just a figure plucked out of the blue; it is a figure which is related to the proportion of Government expenditure that has, in the past, gone to old age pensioners. The means test is \$7. I believe that the means test could be fixed at \$25. I think that \$25 would create a figure which might well in the long run save the Government a lot of money, because you would not have inspectors running around

going to plantations. You could reduce the inspectorate if the figure were put at \$25, because it would not be necessary to get somebody to find out if an old lady had worked two days or a week weeding and you had to reduce her pension for that week. That sort of thing still goes on in Barbados in 1972. People are still penalised for trying to scratch a living for themselves when they reach the age of 68 or 70. Do not make any mistake about that. In many countries as you will know, Mr. Chairman, or those responsible for this portfolio should know, old age pensions are awarded as a right and no reduction is made.

I remember when the old age pensions were put up in England about 1959 or 1960 that the Daily Express newspaper sent a photographer to photograph Field Marshal Montgomery - I beg your pardon, Sir, I should have said when the army salaries were put up.

Rt. Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member said that the pensions were put up in 1959. I thought, at first, that he meant put up before Parliament, because they had old age pensions in England before the 1926 legislation or a little earlier than that. I now understand that he means when the pensions were increased. The army pensions were increased in 1959; so Field Marshal Montgomery got both.

Mr. ADAMS: It was, in fact, an increase in army salaries and the Daily Express sent a photographer to show him collecting old age pension at the Post Office counter. Field Marshal Montgomery's salary had gone up by something like £800. Although he was in receipt of well over £4,000 a year from the army, he was still going to draw his pension. I see one of the Ministers smiling as he recollects the same photograph. I am not saying that I want it to go to that same extent in Barbados, although it would simplify matters if it could. I believe and I very much hope, and I always welcome the good will of the Leader of the House in matters when it comes to caring for the old, the sick and needy in Barbados. I very much hope that when the Government is contemplating the increase - here I take the words of the Minister of Communications and Works as being accurate - promised by the Minister of Communications and Works that it will consider not only putting up the pensions to a level of around \$12, but it will also consider raising the means test to around \$25. That is a point of which you may find that the Inspectors salaries that you have saved are more than you could save by penalising people for working for a few dollars and taking it off their pensions. That is all I have to say, Sir.

The question that Head 40 - Welfare Department - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 - QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Head 42 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and 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 45 minutes.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

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

2.35 p.m.

On Resumption:

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply. To that it automatically reverts.

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

Head 42 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 42 - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - stand part.

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

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

Head 43 - Mental Hospital - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 43 - Mental Hospital - stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, we are not quite prepared to deal with the next Resolution at this stage. I am asking leave to take Order No. 3 as the next item.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take Order No. 3 as the next order of the day, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 31

Head 104 - Education - was called.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Chairman, this particular Resolution follows upon Capital Estimates in respect of the Council for Legal Education and follows upon the point made earlier today that the Current Estimates were supplemented, and there is nothing more for me to add to that.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

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

THE SUGAR WORKERS (PROVIDENT FUND)
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 8 be the next Order of the day.

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

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1968 the Government set up a benefit scheme called the Sugar Workers Provident Fund for the benefit of those persons who toiled in sugar whether it be in the harvesting or the haulage of canes or haulage of sugar. To set up this fund and in order to finance it it laid down in Section 6 of the Act that it should be financed out of monies received by the Accountant General by virtue of the Sugar Industry Provident Fund Levy Act of 1964. In fact, we have heard some passing reference made to that Act earlier. In addition, the fund was to receive monies from the Sugar Industry Price Stabilisation Reserve Fund as well as from the Labour Welfare Fund.

Now these were the only sources of finance for the fund. The position is now that the fund as it stands is insufficient and inadequate in order to service the benefits payable under the Act. The reason for this is that the average number of workers who have become entitled to receive these benefits whether they be pensions or funeral grants was under-estimated at the time of the setting up of the fund. When the fund was set up, it was based on the estimates supplied by the Sugar Producers. What has happened is that the fund itself has had a multiplier effect of inducing people to retire before they would have retired normally, had there been no fund. The reason for this is that these persons now have a pension and a weekly income to look forward to when in fact they would have had nothing; so those persons who have

reached the minimum age of 65 years might still have been working have retired and are now drawing the weekly emoluments.

It has become necessary for us to look for other sources of financing this fund, because the sources as laid down under the Act are, as I said earlier, completely inadequate. Under the amending Bill it is sought to include among the sources the Consolidated Fund as well as any other sources from which money may be derived and paid into the fund from time to time. This is a very simple amendment.

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

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I anticipate that when a certain Resolution comes up in Committee, a Resolution which will essentially depend upon the passage of this Bill since the money cannot be appropriated, and at least if appropriated cannot be used by the Provident Fund Board, all members who represent rural constituencies and have the interest of the sugar workers at heart will wish to say something about it, and I will not trespass upon that part of the Provident Fund issue so to speak. But I think it only reasonable to take this opportunity of setting the records straight about the Provident Fund.

In 1956 an agreement was entered into between the then Government of Barbados, the Barbados Workers' Union and the employers for the establishment of a fund to benefit retired sugar workers. This fund was to be financed by a levy, a cess upon the sugar and molasses. The Union and the Government and the employers agreed that forty cents per ton of sugar or per 290 wine gallons of fancy molasses be paid by the employers into the fund. The money was collected at the rate of 40 cents in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960. Just before the Barbados Labour Party Government went out of power in 1961 it was agreed that the cess be raised to \$1.00 per ton. It was 40 cents in 1956 and became \$1.00 in 1961. (Asides) I can only read from the Act. If the Minister's recollections do not accord with the printed word, hon. members will have to judge which to accept.

This fund continued in existence although not in operation until it was highlighted first at a Cabinet meeting held upon the 15th July, 1963, when it was discussed in Cabinet... (Asides) Mr. Deputy Speaker, sometimes I know a thing or two. If the Minister wishes to challenge, let him look back at the Cabinet records; and it was further highlighted by the wind-fall issue of that year. I am almost afraid to call that word in here if you want peace, love and quiet to prevail; but the windfall issue at the end of that year and the beginning of the next year highlighted this, because one of the arguments that was used by the spokesmen of the Barbados Labour Party in their campaign against allowing the Barbados Worker's Union to fund certain monies which had accrued as a windfall accretion to the sugar industry

was that there was already a fund in existence to help sugar workers and nobody was doing anything to see about paying money out of it.

3.30 p.m.

In 1964 the Agreement between the Government, the Union and Employers was given statutory force by the 1964 Levy Act, and by 1968 the total funds available, which included a grant of \$2 million from the Price Stabilisation Fund upon which so much contentedly has been heaped by the Prime Minister from the year 1952 until the present, the much to be condemned Price Stabilisation Fund provided \$2 million for the Provident Fund, and that Price Stabilisation Fund was entirely the creation of the Barbados Labour Party because its existence formed the *raison d'être* for the Democratic Labour Party - I see its first Chairman sitting here and I see one of its principal opponents sitting here also - I am sure both hon. members in this House can confirm that the Price Stabilisation Fund provided the first bone of contention between the member for St. John and the former junior member for St. Joseph, Sir Grantley Adams. That fund provided \$2 million of the Provident Fund money, and the cess which was agreed on between the Government, Union and the Employers provided another \$1.1 million, and the fund started in 1968 with \$3.1 million.

It was introduced into this House by the hon. member for St. Andrew, he was then the senior member for St. Andrew, on December 10, 1968, I think it was. Hon. members on the Labour Party side of the House said that \$3.60 a week was not enough for the pension for the sugar workers and urged that it be raised to \$5.00, for when the Bill came in it proposed a pension of \$3.60 a week, the hon. member for St. Peter, the then hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the then senior member for St. Peter, all pressed that the sugar workers get a pension of \$5.00 a week. The Bill was sent to a Select Committee. During the week there were certain rumours of discord and the Prime Minister "threw joy to the world" as the expression went for the Christmas season and dismissed the hon. member as Minister of Agriculture. The following week he came back to the House of Assembly, and where the week before Mr. Husbands and Mr. Boxill had cursed each other past each other's burial point, they were now on the same side fighting the same cause, and I want to praise the now Minister of Agriculture because he had the courage to come back the following week and say then what the present Minister in charge has evidently taken over three years to realise, because the following week the present Minister of Agriculture came back and said that if you wish to pay the sugar workers \$5.00 per week the then structure of finance could not afford it, and all members of the House ought to know - because I do not believe he will get up and criticise his Government now that he has been welcomed back into the fold at this stage.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I just want to make it clear that I was never out of the fold.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. ADAMS: I want to congratulate him for his very words which I will read to the House: "I am anxious to see a Resolution brought down by the next time we meet for provision to subsidise the Fund by the appropriate amount. I will not vote for the amendment because I know that if the amount is to be found I am satisfied that it cannot be found from the present fund in the way in which it is financed." That is what the then ex-Minister of Agriculture said, and I think that it is an apt commentary upon the efficiency and the dynamism and the power for advance of the Democratic Labour Party Government that when on the 17th December, 1968 the recently fired responsible Minister could say that you could not pay the Provident Fund money upon the basis as it was then financed it has taken until Leap Year Day 1972 before the Government was prepared to take what all of us knew then as good advice and refinance the Provident Fund Scheme.

There have been very severe hardships - and I use the word "hardships" deliberately - upon a large number of the sugar workers because of this failure to finance the Provident Fund satisfactorily at the start. It was estimated then - and I do not want to steal the Minister's thunder, I hope he does not mind but I only intend to make one speech - it was estimated then that there were 1,500 persons who would benefit and I understand the figure has crept up to nearly 7,000 of which I understand some 4,000 have been paid. I am sure the Minister will correct me if I am inaccurate. Persons entitled to these pensions have been held up and thrown into emotional distress by seeing their friends and neighbours, and even some of the people with whom they worked in the industry, whose need they may well feel is less than theirs all because the scheme was not financed properly in the first place.

The Price Stabilisation Fund provided a good deal of money; I believe if in 1961 or 1962 the Government had then started to pay out the Provident Fund, they might not have had to pay as high a level of benefit as \$5.00. I think it went up to a million and a quarter by 1968 available from the Levy. It also would have proved to be a more substantial amount of money to have had in hand than it proved to be after the devaluation of 1967. The Government has been laggard at all stages with the establishment of the Provident Fund. We said so in the debates in 1968, we said how at that time the Fund had been in existence for 12 years, we said that the Government had had itself 7

years in which to introduce the benefit scheme, and I much admire the choice of words used by the Minister who introduced this Bill, it was so much better than the Minister of "know everything", the hon. member for St. Michael South Central. I admire the Minister for his accuracy on that occasion, and we certainly are happy to adopt his words in that regard. We said at the time that this Government has allowed 7 years to pass and it was too long, it turns out it has allowed ten years to pass when it had the benefit of expert advice and ministerial opinion that the scheme could not be financed as was envisaged at the time of its introduction.

This amendment and the Resolution which will follow it are long overdue; they have kept the sugar workers, the old, the sick and indigent, deprived for much too long. If a sugar worker in 1956 listening to the then stirring words of the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, how it was intended that the Barbados Labour Party Government and the Union would force the employers to introduce a Provident Fund Scheme to help them in their old age, how do you think the remaining 2,500 of them feel waiting now, 16 years after the Barbados Labour Party introduced the Fund, to get their money? It is one of the most damning indictments against the Democratic Labour Party's regime and the way it does its business that there ever has been in this House. Earlier today we have heard somebody pouring scorn on giving old age pensioners \$12 a week. Now we realise that the same Government has allowed 16 years to pass from the institution of a fund to the stage where it is being managed at that level of efficiency which alone will allow the promised benefits to be paid after all of these years. I am surprised that they have not waited 40 years. I think they are led by a Moses. Well, Moses kept the Israelites in the promised land for 40 years. Several thousand years after, it seems that the current Moses is still keeping them out of the promised land for 16 years.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am neither going to be a Moses nor a Daniel, but I must crave your time to put the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to rest on this matter of the Provident Fund. I do not think he is going to speak on this matter after I have finished speaking on it. He will never speak on it again. It is true that in 1968 I was not a member of this Chamber. Unfortunately, the members of my party were unable to deal with this matter as it should have been dealt with, and the members on the other side talked a lot of nonsense about the history of this Fund. It is also true that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was not a member of this House when the Fund was started, but he should be the last one to say that my party has kept the people waiting for 16 years.

Now, let us examine this nonsense - purely mathematical and historical nonsense. This fund came about as a result of the pressure of the Bar-

bados Workers' Union in 1953 when it insisted that the time had come when they should give the sugar workers some benefit out of the sugar industry. I spoke on this matter in this House and I said that the Government should make a levy direct on the sugar industry and not out of the funds, but that suggestion was rejected by the Government in power at that time.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. Was not the hon. member a member of the Government and of the Executive Committee at that time? Is he saying that he rejected his own suggestion? I challenge him to deny that he was a member of the Executive Committee at that time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a question and not a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Let me correct him; it was not 1953 but 1954. In 1953 were the dying days of my relationship with the Barbados Labour Party. (*Asides*) I do not need the Debates because I am alive. I was alive in 1953, and I was born long before 1953 (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. member still addressing the Chair?

Mr. WALCOTT: I can deal with the hecklers, Sir. I do not appeal to the Chair when the hecklers are interrupting; others have to do that, but I am accustomed to that sort of thing. I was saying that I insisted at the time that the money should come direct from the sugar industry. The hon. member for Christ Church East was then the senior member for Christ Church and the Minister of Agriculture in the Government. They did not accept that suggestion but said that they would, as an alternative, look to one of the funds and decided to use the Labour Welfare Fund. The suggestion from the Union was that the money should come direct from the industry. The money came from the division of the funds. You have here three funds; price stabilization, labour welfare and rehabilitation. At the beginning it was agreed that there should be a reallocation of the funds, and as a result of the reallocations of the funds it was agreed that 40¢ per ton should be used from this fund and placed towards a Provident Fund for the sugar workers. That came into operation in 1956, and it was calculated on x cents per ton of sugar manufactured.

Now, the Barbados Labour Party had an opportunity from 1956 to implement this Scheme, but they did not do so. To be quite frank they did not have a clue about what they should do. The Scheme would have been cheaper to implement at that time, because you would have known the people and there would have been no backlog. That would have been the year of operation, and you would have been in a better position to operate the fund. (*Asides*) You cannot be mathematically right or arithmetically correct to include all of the years when you had 5 years and add on those 16 to mine. What kind of arithmetic would that be?

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would withdraw the 16 and say that we must be blamed for 5 years and they must be blamed for 11 years.

Mr. WALCOTT: I will deal with that now. It was not 16 years but 11 years. In 1956 the Scheme was implemented. I do not blame the hon. member for what happened in 1956, because he was not around here. They did not seem to have a clue as to what they should do to implement the Scheme. It is not their fault alone, and it may be the fault of the administration. In these matters you have to rely on public servants. We had no actuaries in Barbados to tell you that this is the number of people you have to take care of. I am going to be kind to the Barbados Labour Party, but they found themselves in 1956 implementing a Scheme with all of the funds being the same as they are today. Now, \$13.20 was the levy in 1947, and \$13.20 is the levy today in 1972. For 25 years the levy has remained the same. You had the Labour Party taking up 40 cents a ton in 1954 and in 1956, and you know what the wages were 18 years ago. 3.50 p.m.

You know the value of 40 cents per ton in 1956 as against what the wages were eighteen years ago. You can go back and see what a sugar worker would have been earning. If you had implemented the scheme in 1956, or I will go further and say in 1957, or even a little further and say 1958, or even for practical purposes if you said 1959 because you knew you were going out in 1961, if you had any sense to know that an election was coming off in 1961, you would have implemented the scheme, but instead of doing that you had the usual problems. (*Asides*) It had nothing to do with the money. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition should say this, because again I am dealing with money. You are barking up a tree and you will be very wrong. From 1954 to 1960 you had bigger crops than you have today. You were estimating on the basis of 150,000 tons of sugar as an average, and this was a levy based on production; but there would have been nothing to prevent the Labour Party Government from utilising the Price Stabilisation Fund also because the amount of money standing to the credit of the Price Stabilisation Fund was as healthy in 1956 as it ever was.

In 1956 and subsequent to that before the then Government went out of power in 1961, the Government and the Union agreed to use the \$2 million from the Price Stabilisation Fund to help build the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; so there cannot be any question of not being able to use some of the Price Stabilisation Fund. The fund

could have been used by Government, but they did not have the foresight and vision to utilise that. The hon. member must bear in mind that his Party had a Minister of Finance that I remarked already reminded me of my son when he was a kid and said he did not know the meaning of romance, but he knew the meaning of finance, and when his mother asked him what was the meaning of finance, he said quite seriously, "those little ones that get into the sugar!" That was your problem then. The hon. member has gone; God rest him in his grave; but he knew as much about finance as I know about sputnik. He was out of his depth. (*Asides*) At least I would speak better about sputniks than he could speak about finance, because I do not believe he made it his business to read enough about things. He was a politician by kindness of heart and length of time, more so than by any particular political sagacity or wisdom. But that was part of that generation and as part of that era he made his contribution. The hon. member cannot come today forgetting that his party was in power in the years 1956 to 1961, five years at the beginning of the fund, and his party had no right to come out of power without starting it. They did not have the political acumen to see that at least if they had made a start they would have been doing something.

The hon. member said a true word when he said that he does not like to use the windfall issue. Look at what has happened. If you have the patience like me to wait, you just wait. I have waited on the windfall and look what I have seen: six over there and eighteen over here. They thought that the windfall was the end of me, the end of time, and I would never reappear again. That is the justice of the case. The windfall issue had justice. I agree with the hon. member that it was up and above the thinking of members of the Barbados Labour Party, and they thought on this narrow basis that they could go and tell people not to fund the money. I am dealing with it today, but you were going around the country telling the ignorant that they have money put down already. I am here today, you are speaking about it today, and I am going to answer you now because you have an opportunity to defend yourself and I am going to demolish you on it today right here and after that you will not speak on it again.

In 1956 you knew they did not have any money put down. They knew what they had put down was committed to a specific matter and it had absolutely nothing to do with what the windfall would have done, because the windfall was a fund to be run and operated by the workers independently from Parliament. It was only when we tried to get the approval of Parliament, because we were taking money in a big industry where so

many people sent canes from different places and in order to do it we would have to get the approval of Parliament in those circumstances, because had it been done in other circumstances and in other industries we would require Parliamentary approval, that it broke down. We do not require parliamentary approval for anything to do with any other employer because there is not that legal entanglement with us selling something to any person; so you do not require that. You only require it because this was the sugar industry where you know there would be a law suit for a factory to make a deduction for canes to provide a service for which the man is not a party to any of the organisations.

Quite dishonestly and to gain a political point they prevented the sugar workers from having money accruing to them that would have been more than \$1 million, and the assets from that fund could have been such that when you look at this fund today it would be only supplementary, and the sugar workers would have been in a better position. I am not the poorer from it; this country is the poorer from it because that money is no longer in circulation, and it cannot activate the economy of this country as it would have activated it; but they preferred to see the planters and the few people who dominated the economic life of this country continue to do so than to see an economic metamorphosis and a transformation in Barbados, because they thought it would have brought credit to me in the Barbados Workers' Union and my party. The price we are paying is only a price out of spite, out of ignorance and utilising a mass of people that at the time were catching at a lump sum of money.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, let us deal now with the funds that they left. All that they left was what Parliament gave them the right to set up. They had no right to leave anything; whom were they leaving money for? Were they dying and passing on a will? Why should they leave money when they were entrusted to set up a fund for the workers? They were entrusted by Parliament to set up a fund in 1956; they went out of power in 1961 and had done nothing, and the Leader of the Opposition has the effrontery and the brass to stand up here and tell somebody subsequently that they left money for them. If the Government that got into power subsequently as a result of your ineptitude did not do anything about it, they should have been condemned forever. This Government got into power for the first time in 1961 and they proceeded because again the Union started to prod them by telling them they must do something about this Provident Fund. As a result of the Union's prodding, what do we find? When the Committee was set up, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we

found the nonsense in Barbados that I had to go and sit on a Committee for months getting information from the sugar industry, and I am sitting on the Committee now after nearly ten years. It meant that we were members of the Committee and knew more about it than what some of the members of Parliament knew. When you examine the situation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the amount of money available - and that is why we have to use the Price Stabilisation Fund - could not even give to all the people who were eligible for the fund \$3.00 a week.

4.00 p.m.

To give all of them \$3.00 a week and pay them back from 1956, pay then for ten years' back pay it would have taken more than the total? the amount would have been more than \$3 million to pay for ten years, and that was without committing yourself to pay any person a pension beginning from the year it was started. As a result, to get this off the ground - and I make no bones about it - we spent many days on it, and I, speaking on behalf of the workers, could say this, that it was so long that, on behalf of the workers, we could accept a freeze in that we agreed that the most in back pay that a person who was alive could get would be five years, so you had to freeze five years to get the scheme off, because we knew the workers would have preferred to get something going and five years' pay was given to any worker with ten years' service or more or five years' service or more. That was the result of the Committee meeting, but you know, life is a harsh thing.

When the Bill came here to the House of Assembly to be dealt with - and I do not like to call names - it would be amazing to go and read Hansard. I read it, and I listened to what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had to say; I read what some of the other hon. members had to say also. The then senior member for St. Peter also spoke on it, and it was amazing to hear them in a single chorus. Look at the 1968-54 Act, go and look at Hansard, read what they said because they felt that the Barbados Worker's Union had no right to be mentioned in the Act. When I read that, and I read that we had some members in here who are members of the same Party and could not get up and blister them, but in all Parties sometimes everybody does not like to see people like me survive. I believe a lot of my so-called friends were pleased in 1966 when I lost, but in 1972 the picture is a little different and I am here. (Mr. CRAIG: Why did you not run for St. Peter on this occasion?) How many places do you want me to run for at one time? I ran for the constituency you said I would not win; On the next occasion I will run for St. Michael West and for St. James as well.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, he is quite capable.

Mr. WALCOTT: I hope they saw what happened with the last election. According to the cricket news, if we were playing with 20 overs and not playing to time some of them would not be sitting down there now. They boasted a lot before the election - and I do not know what kind of life is this - if they are losers and they are like that, if they were winners we would all have been in prison.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, when the hon. member lost in St. Peter he abused the electorate down there but we would not do that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not deem that a point of order, we are dealing with the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund Scheme.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member only got up to say that so that subsequently he can say "did you hear that one I put on"? Can the hon. member bring any proof to show that I abused the electorate in St. Peter? It is not possible to abuse anybody in Barbados unless you do it in public, the only people who can do these things are the members of the Barbados Labour Party, they have some convenient systems. I hope that any time anybody accuses them of having private sets at home and of monitoring people's conversations they do not get annoyed.

A very serious allegation was made today, but I am not the Prime Minister, and for a member of the Opposition to openly get in Parliament and say what was stated in Cabinet is very wrong indeed. The hon. member says the Cabinet's business is not a secret, and he says he is a lawyer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but we are dealing with the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund.

Mr. WALCOTT: When the hon. member says that the Government should be ashamed after 16 years waiting, he should be ashamed to get up here today, after this notoriously bad record of his Party for five years, the introduction of something new, workers waiting on this, something people have been asking for for years in this country. We have travelled up and down the country all the way from 1945; in 1956 they have the opportunity to do something and when they went out of power then something had to be done and they have the gall to get up here now and accuse some person of keeping the workers back, asking if we are going to wait for another 40 years till we get to the new Jerusalem as Moses going across with the children

of Israel and all that kind of nonsense. He will never speak again on this, he tried to wrap up the people of the country on this, how can we listen to that? He told the people in St. Thomas that they started it, but that is not true, this came from the workers themselves, therefore it is a movement the workers started? The workers in this country had severance pay before any Government agreed to it. This is something the workers agreed to by themselves with employers; workers today are receiving severance pay by voluntary agreement. It was as a result of the workers' own unity that they started this, but when they asked the Government to do something for them do you know why this was delayed? Because of ignorance, stupidity and spite.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. member accusing the hon. member for St. Andrew of ignorance, stupidity and spite? It is the hon. member for St. Andrew who delayed it for 7 years and we only delayed it for 5 years.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Sir, I would not like to say that the hon. member for St. Thomas is a liar. The point is that I was responsible for the Ministry of Labour in 1965. In 1963 action was taken by having legislation drafted and so on. Immediately after I was made responsible for the Ministry of Labour in 1965 positive action was taken on the establishment and provision of legislation for the Sugar Workers Provident Fund. The hon. member boasted about his knowing what happened in 1963 at Cabinet meetings, but his informant could have told him that he was the same person who did not push the Provident Fund as he ought to have pushed it and I had to do it in 1965. I think I am to be congratulated for having it on the Statute Book of this country or having introduced it in this Legislature by 1968. It took your Government 5 years, and until your informant went out in 1965 we could not get anything done about it. I am stating categorically that the only persons who could have told you about the dates on which it was introduced are the same ones who sat down and did nothing. I am saying that what it took you, your party and your informant from 1965 to do, I was able to do in three years.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of explanation made.

Mr. ADAMS rose - -

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you cannot have 10 points of order during a main speech. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is accusing the Government of delaying this matter, then I am pointing out that you cannot accuse a Government of delaying something when you had

it in your hands and could have initiated it. The matter was in your hands before this Government came to power. The Barbados Labour Party was in power from 1948 until 1961 - 13 years; so there cannot be any question of the Labour Party not being able to implement the Scheme. You cannot say why it took you 5 years and nothing was done. I will say why they failed to do it. From the year 1956 the Labour Party was so bent on dealing with the Hon. Prime Minister and myself and in destroying the Barbados Workers' Union that they could not get on with something that would appear to reflect some of the thinking of the Barbados Workers' Union and some of the thinking of myself? So they allowed 5 years to go by without doing anything in the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not expect that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would expect me to sit here in this Chamber above any other member - I am not taking any credit for anything. So far as I am concerned, I do things because I am alive and my thinking permits me to do them. This is a microscopic action in my life. This Provident Fund came as a result of a visit I made to Cuba in 1953 where I saw for the first time a huge Provident Scheme in Havana involving all of the sugar workers. I considered that if they could have a Scheme like that operating in Cuba out of the sugar industry, then we in Barbados had the ability and the brains to do it and we set about to do it. That is where this whole idea of Severance Pay and the Provident Fund for sugar workers came about. It was initiated by the workers, but you have to get the Government to implement it.

I do not think the hon. member can accuse the Government today. The Government might have been slow in its action, and I am not going to say that the Government acted as the fastest Government in the world in implementing this. However, the Government has implemented it, and there can be no question of saying that the members of the Government should be ashamed for implementing it. I hope that what I have said today will throw some light on this. The fund is in dire need of money. I believe we will have to look at this fund again, because in the light of National Insurance certain changes have come about subject to the Sugar Workers Fund. We will have to look at this in the light of the modern-day idea.

Now, the Union had suggested that it should have been \$5 a week, but all of these things do not come out in the newspapers. When we sat down in Committee we could not recommend \$5 a week, because the amount of money that was made available was not enough to get \$5 a week

from it. The sum of \$2 million was made available for that purpose. You would have to make more than \$10 million in capital available in order to give the people anything approximating some of the figures that had been suggested. The amount of sugar produced has dropped. If you are now getting \$1 per ton and you are producing an average of 135,000 or 140,000 tons, you will only have \$140,000. If you have \$140,000 that is what you are going to get every year. They have put down \$2 million, and if you are getting 7% or 7½% that is another \$150,000; therefore you have \$390,000 and that amount will govern how many pensioners you can pay. Of course, that will not take care of any of the back-log that you will have to pay for.

Now, if you have 3,000 pensioners and you have to pay a pensioner \$156 a year, then you will know how much money you will have to look for. You will have to look for \$450,000. If you make it \$5 a year and change the amount from \$156 to \$270 you will have to get nearly \$1 million and you do not have the liquidity to deal with it. It is as simple as that, so far as the arithmetic is concerned. The time factor is now too long. You have waited so long that people are now drawing back money in the sum of over \$1 million. If you have a surplus put down, then you will have to get more money out of that. These are some of the problems.

I would say that one of the weaknesses in this matter was the type of information submitted to us. The first information that came out was to the effect that there were about 2,000 pensioners, but it was subsequently found out that the correct figure was nearly 7,000 pensioners. When you have estimated to pay 2,000 people and the number turns out to be over 7,000, you will certainly find yourself in difficulties.

4.20 p.m.

If this were a card game, the hand would be in the pool because you could not go any more? but the Minister cannot throw in his hand now. What I think should be done now is that a serious study should be made of this matter and allow the sides concerned in this matter, the Government and the employers' representatives, to undertake a study of this matter shorn of any political gain. I am speaking today as a politician and I can wear two hats. If this had not been thrown into Parliament, it would be outside Parliament. We have other funds outside Parliament that are operated by the employers and workers and they are viable. The dockers pay money into a fund and they have a viable fund? but with the sugar workers this is a fund you

were hoping to get, but you did not get the accurate information, and until you get accurate information about these things you are in a lot of trouble, and I will warn the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have started a National Insurance Scheme which is running successfully, but one of the things that people were afraid of is that in Jamaica they started one of these national schemes and it failed on the grounds that they did not have information on the National Insurance Scheme in Jamaica, and for the same reason somebody went and calculated that they only had 200,000 people, but when the things turned out in Jamaica there were over half a million people, which was a different figure on which to operate. This is one of the weaknesses of this matter. It is not that you do not want to do good.

The other thing is that it is a matter of the Civil Service. Some members know that the Civil Service is as bereft of financial or accounting officers as you can find piles down at Graves End beach. You would be amazed to know that you will put thousands running into millions of dollars in certain areas to be administered, but you cannot send a senior clerk to deal with millions of dollars, not that he is dishonest but he is not an accountant and has no accounting experience? He is playing by air and can only work right when he gets the right tune. This is one of the problems in Government that you have financial matters being dealt with that are not properly controlled. We are lucky in Barbados in the sense that notwithstanding what the members of the Barbados Labour Party stated about corruption, if Barbados had been a corrupt community with organised corruption, people would carry away so much money from the Government it would not be funny; but everybody in Barbados is afraid. They go and sell a cow when they hear a girl has got into trouble; they sell the old house, chop off half the paling, break down this, sell everything because they do not want any trouble. Barbadians are fundamentally like that. It is one of our problems in operating the Severance Pay. In the Scheme, as members know, some of the people have fallen from grace and they have a problem in dealing with this matter; but I do not think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition or any hon. member of the Opposition can accuse this Government of anything in this scheme, because this is a scheme that should have been initiated by the Barbados Labour Party and it should only now be embellished by this Government and not for this Government to be accused of delaying people for forty years or any nonsense like that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have listened for some time to much that has been

said on this matter of the Sugar Workers Provident Fund, and moreso I paid very special attention to what has been said about the windfall. I am one of the people who bitterly opposed the funding of the money by the Barbados Workers' Union or any other organisation. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members not addressing the Chair, please speak in undertones.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I well remember today what the condition was and in some cases still is of many who are employed in the sugar industry of this country. I am not fooling myself that there are not still some people employed in the sugar industry of this country living under conditions which no hon. member of this House would even like to think of or have it mentioned. We just do not like it. The Barbados Workers' Union will try its best, other people will try their best to improve the economic plight of these people, but nevertheless there still remain with us whatever we might do or however we might try some glaring facts about these people and their conditions of life. There burns within me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, thoughts of all this. I am saying today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that knowing the condition of some of these people today, I may be tempted again today to suggest that it be put directly into the hands of the workers and let them help themselves with it.

I have heard the member for St. Michael West say that the money was taken out of circulation. I do not subscribe to that view.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member said he heard me say that money was taken out of circulation. I have no recollection of making any statement that the money was taken out of circulation. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Do not tell me to rule or what to do. I know what to do and if anybody wants to tell me what to do, I will ask him to leave for the remainder of the sitting. Hon. members must please take their seats when I am standing.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rose to a point of order objecting to the statement that I said that money was taken out of circulation. I never said that money was taken out of circulation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said that the hon. member for St. Michael West suggested

that the money was taken out of circulation when it was paid directly to the workers. It was no longer in circulation, to use his own words.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. HINDS: I am not afraid of anything he might jump up and down in.....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I wanted him to be afraid I would not stand on this side and he on that side. I would go closer. You cannot be afraid when there is so much between us.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please make your point.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is saying that I suggested that money was taken out of circulation. I never suggested that.
4.30 p.m.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the hon. member for St. Michael West suggested in his address that in making the direct payments to the workers of the \$1.6 million or whatever it was, he did not make mention of the block sum, but in making direct payments to the workers that the money was no longer in circulation.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I never made mention today of \$1.6 million, I have not made any suggestion and you cannot say that. What I said was the reverse, we would have that money to stimulate the economy today and activate the circulation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is this, when the windfall money was paid directly to the workers the workers made full use of it. There is no worker who put it in the four corners of his mattress or sour grass bed or whatever he might have had at the particular time, we are hearing now that the workers carried it back to the same planters from whom they had got it. Since 1961 what has the Democratic Labour Party done to stop these workers, whenever they get money, from having to carry it back to buy from these same people? What has the same Barbados Workers' Union done? Mr. Deputy Speaker, it cannot be denied that the workers helped themselves to improve their economic position, to improve their immediate surroundings immediately they got the money in their hands? It is a very good thing for people living under conditions such, as we know that some of those workers lived, and to tell a worker you are putting by something for "bunbuy" is

not good enough, this is not something he will accept readily. Workers in the sugar industry today who are over 65, the most that they would be receiving from the same Fund if the Barbados Workers' Union had been allowed to fund it would be \$14.00 per annum.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member cannot quote anybody saying that because no scheme was put into operation by anybody from the Barbados Workers' Union.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, stop all this nonsense that is going on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member rose on a point of order and I have to hear the point of order. Do not interrupt.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I made a speech and I never mentioned the utilisation of the money, so it is false for the hon. member to say how the money would have been utilised because I did not propose any method of utilisation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made. The hon. member for St. Peter may resume.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in any field of business one is allowed, I think — and I know I am right in saying this — what is considered a fair return on any investment. There will be some investments that will yield more than others, but in a debate such as this today we must take what could be considered a fair and reasonable investment... (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Michael West made his speech and was not interrupted, but he is now distracting the hon. member addressing the Chair. I will not warn him again. I will remind him again of the Standing Order which says that members not addressing the House should speak only in undertones. (*Asides*) I have spoken and still the hon. member continues.

Mr. HINDS: I heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot that is false being said about this Bill that is before us here today. For instance, it has been suggested that the Sugar Workers' Provident Fund, that because of a mere \$3.60 per week there are agricultural workers in this community who are able to work but are retiring because they can get \$3.60 per week. This is what has been said by a Minister of Government, and that is nonsense.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the hon. member for St. Peter might have misinterpreted the point the Minister was making. The point the Minister was making was that at the age of 65 the worker is entitled to it, whether he continues to work or not, but they are induced to apply for the Fund and there are several sugar workers who are working and have reached the age of 65 and are getting the \$3.60 to which they are entitled.

4.40 p.m.

Another point is that there were a lot of sugar workers who stopped working since 1956. They had not reached the age of 65, but they had stopped working due to illness. They made applications to the Chief Labour Officer; we considered their cases and they are entitled to it. This number was not anticipated prior to the introduction of the legislation, but I do not think that the Minister wanted to make the point that they are retiring in order to get the \$3.65.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of explanation made.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member for St. Andrew made a point about workers who retire before reaching the age of 65, but they can only retire and get benefits from the fund on medical grounds. Their applications will have to be supported by medical certificates. That brings me to the point where quite a number of the applications now pending before the same Board are going to give a lot of trouble. You will find that some of those workers had been attended by Dr. Snow who was in St. Lucy and has left the country and by Dr. Rogers and other doctors. These doctors have left the country and those people are finding it difficult to get a medical certificate to support their applications. The people just do not know what to do or where to go. We would certainly like to know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that something is done whereby these people can get assistance. Do not let us leave the worker to depend on the manager at an estate. I can say that quite a number of these workers are not getting the co-operation from some of these estate managers. Some estate managers feel that the workers are annoying them when they have to assist them in supporting what is set out in Form III, although the law requires them to do so. I know that some of the workers are afraid to approach the manager on a second occasion.

Now, what makes the situation much more difficult is that, with the amending of the Act some time ago to include those workers who had

worked on small holdings up to 10 acres, I think it is, the number of applications coming in from those small holdings that has helped to swell the number which had almost reached 7,000 and the Provident Fund Board is now faced with this situation. No matter how one feels about the windfall and so on, nobody would want to see anything done that would prevent the Provident Fund Board from having money to meet its commitments. Some of the pensions for these workers have been in arrears for four months and time and again that has been so. We would not like to see this sort of thing taking place. All being well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are quite confident that we will see this Bill passed in all its stages within a matter of seconds, and that we will get on with the next stage of the people's business.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not going to delay the passing of this Bill, but I asked a question in the last House and I would have thought that if the Government had the interest of these people at heart at least something could have been said or done in respect of those persons who have acquired the necessary age and qualifications for receipt of the Provident Fund. I presume, because of the insufficiency of the fund, they have not been paid. Several of them have died without receiving what was legally due to them, if I am to follow the words of the hon. member for St. Michael West. I have mentioned before the question of depriving certain people of what is legally theirs, and then telling their relatives that you are compensating them by giving them \$100 towards the funeral expenses. That is high-class robbery, and I would like the Union to look into this matter. The member for St. Michael West pontificated all day about the fund, and I think it is in his interest to go into this matter.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, nobody is depriving people of what is legally theirs. If people die during the time when their applications are being processed, I do not think it is fair to say that they are deprived of what is theirs. It will be a question of not receiving the money before they died, but if a man is entitled to something before he dies the amount will be paid to his estate. As a lawyer, the hon. member should know this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a point of explanation.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the estate is not getting it. I can give you the name of a woman in St. Joseph whom I had to intervene for some five or six months ago; the

woman died, and the next thing I was told is that she would get \$100 towards her estate.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$100 will be paid towards the funeral grant and not towards the estate. According to the law, it would have to be paid to the estate or to the legal representative of the person.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point made.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order. I think I know the case about which the hon. member for St. Joseph is talking. I know about the case because I have been retained to put the matter in court. Only today I have settled the papers, and perhaps it might be better if we do not discuss it in here. The woman comes from Joes River Plantation, and I settled the papers today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Did you allow the woman to go to him when you represent St. Joseph?

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Minister in charge, I will personally look after this case, if I am given the name. *(Asides)*

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Is the hon. member for St. Joseph still addressing the Chair?

Mr. BOLDEN: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I do not mind the hon. member for St. Michael West behind there parrying, because he should know that he was not in here during the last Session when they came in here and said that they have to change the Act and take him off because he would not attend the Board meetings. *(Asides)* I am glad he is in here now.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next question which arises is the method which is now being used in respect of qualifications.
4.50 p.m.

There are several persons who have worked at plantations and have now retired. The manager of the plantation at the given time had either left or retired and you have got to take the form and find somebody at the plantation to sign it before it is accepted at Herbert House, and the new manager is telling them that he does not know anything about them and he is not signing it. I had a case up to this week where I had to make out a form and send it to Herbert House. These are things which the Act should provide for, and I have been...

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, I do not want the hon. member to lead us astray. The whole point is that the Labour Department does not only accept the form signed by the Manager, but by the foreman, superintendent or whatever you might have at the factory. If the manager is not there, somebody who was working there for years and can testify to all this can sign it. This has been happening.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it seems as if everybody over there wants to jump up and justify something every time you make a statement; but I can serve them a nice little trick, because when anybody comes to me I will ask him to go and look for the Minister of Agriculture and let him sign it because the plantation manager refuses. The present managers are saying they do not know the workers and will not sign, and this is happening day after day. If you are going to amend the Act you should amend it in such a way that you take care of the problems which have been thrown up and deal with them once and for all. I sat here and heard people referring to 1947 and 1959 and how the fund was created. The point is that we are here now; so let us amend the law to satisfy the conditions as exist today. I do not want to see all this jumping up by people saying this or that is not true.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

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 Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 No. 32

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$654,918. The addendum sets out in detail, and the appropriate Minister will in seconding give any additional information which he thinks fit. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second that. Quite clearly I think that much of what has been said already could be related to this Resolution. Now that we know the mood of the House with respect to the passing of the Bill, we can now proceed to deal with this money Resolution because we could not have dealt with the money Resolution until we knew that the House was prepared to amend the Bill in order to finance the fund from the source of the Consolidated Fund.

I will just give a few figures which I am sure hon. members will be glad to hear. I said earlier in moving the motion on the second reading of the Bill that it was earlier estimated that 1,500 persons would have benefited at the time of the coming into operation of the fund in November 1969. In fact, the number of claims received were 5,958 of which 3,867 were approved. There is still a backlog to be dealt with. I think hon. members know very well the reason for this, and it simply is that some of the plantation managers were new to the estates; those people who worked on the estates usually worked from the age of fourteen years until they retired, whereas estate managers came and went. In several cases people worked for one estate only, while in other cases they might have worked for two or three estates. It would be impossible for those managers who would only have known of them from the time they came on the estates to give the kind of verification that would be incontrovertible. However, the Board has been relaxing the requirement and has been accepting affidavits from authorised persons that these people have in fact been working for the length of time they have claimed.

5.00 p.m.

So although the information that is required to be given was not given by the estate Managers, yet at the same time this supplementary evidence

can still be given on affidavits and the Board will deal with it accordingly.

These, Sir, are some of the problems that have arisen in the operation of the Fund. So far, \$3,588,836 has been paid out. A lot has been said, Mr. Chairman, that the Democratic Labour Party was slow in bringing this Fund and this benefit scheme into operation; the truth is that in 1963 which is two years after the other side had been kicked out of power and had been sleeping on the Fund for five years... (*Asides*) I am going to say it again, I am going to rub it in, if you do not want to hear it then you know what to do. In 1956 when this Fund came into operation and they were sleeping on the Fund for five years before they came out of office, two years later we had \$666,544.88 in it, and this could probably only pay administrative expenses.

The fact is that all the files will show that all that was done by the other side was to set up the Fund and nothing more; all that was done to bring the Fund into operation was done in our term of office. The situation now is that we require over \$600,000 in order to finance the Fund for the remainder of the financial year which ends on 31st March, 1972 and I am happy to second the motion that has been made.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for St. Joseph has made some points, but I am very glad we are passing this money. I think there has been a lot of misunderstanding about this whole matter, the Act, the administration of the scheme and the amount. There is always difficulty in getting these things explained when three people are sort of responsible for the administration of them; a Minister one place, a Board another, and people going to the plantation. As the Leader of the Opposition said, the Act is there, and there is no question about how the Board can behave, the Board cannot do anything different from what the members of Parliament have directed them to do. The Board cannot act as an authority in itself, and apart from that if the Board acts contrary to the law the money cannot be paid out. The hon. member should go and read the Act, they passed it. The Act deals with one of the problems of money, you cannot deal with money unless it comes from interest. You passed that in the House. If tomorrow \$600,000 is not the result of the interest made you could not deal with it, and that is why we have to come back here, because you would not have enough to deal with it.

The hon. member said that when people die the money cannot be paid to the estate, but that is not true, the law says differently. The law prescribes that you can pay the estate, so what is the point of saying they are not being paid?

Another point has been raised. A lawyer is a member, a man who was a Chief Justice of British Honduras is a member of this Board, and I do not think he is ignorant of the law, he is one of the members representing the Sugar Producers' Federation — Mr. Erskine Ward — and on that we have the benefit of his knowledge, and that is a question of having people with qualifications and experience, but he is not going to give a legal opinion in his capacity as a representative, he will send it back to the Attorney-General. Opinions have been given by Attorneys-General from time to time, so there is no point in accusing the Board of acting differently.

Some members said that when I was a member of the Board I did not attend the meetings. At the beginning I was a member of the Board, but I served as one of three members from the Barbados Workers' Union. I am busier than any one man in this House, so do you expect that if I do not turn up to a Board meeting that another representative from the Union will not go? My job is as important as anybody else's in Barbados, and we do not walk around begging people for gifts, we run an organisation that has to be viable, we run an organisation that must have money in it, and therefore I have to see after the affairs of 25,000 to 30,000 people, so if I do not attend a meeting that is nothing, but they are going to get some more also notwithstanding what has been done to prevent them from getting some.

I will say this, the Board has a problem, and it is this. I do not think that any Board should be responsible for the administration in so far as how these things run, and I will say this to the Minister. They must institute a method by which the Board can get rid of the cases on a faster basis. The Board is comprised of members drawn from all walks of life, and the law says the Board must approve of these things, and the Auditor General insists that the Board just cannot approve of it by saying "Mr. Chairman, you can approve of it" because he objects if payments are made without the Board's approval, so if a Board is dealing with 250 or 300 cases a month, this is where I see they must get rid of this problem. I cannot see any Board dealing with this backlog of work if you have 3,000 outstanding claims and you can only deal with 300 once a month, when you get to the tenth month you have not dealt with the new ones that have come in, and that is a problem. They must institute administratively some method of dealing with it.

People come without claims, without affidavits, the Managers say they do not know them, and this is the real problem. We had two people with the same name, living in the same district, and when the name was called — Joseph Lovell — the first man came up and drew the money but he was not the right Joseph Lovell; another man came up with the same name.

5.10 p.m.

These are problems you will get with people in Barbados. A man will come to work with one name and then change it. He will bring his baptismal certificate with a different name and he will be told that he cannot be paid. He will then have to go and swear to an affidavit to prove that he is the man. The affidavit may say that this man is Joseph Browne but he is known as Harris. Some people do not know their correct name until they go to get a baptismal certificate. I know of a man who got married and then told me: "Mr. Walcott, my name is changed." I had to ask him if he were a woman. The point is that his baptismal certificate carried another name, but he was known all the time by a different name. In the circumstances, some managers are saying that they cannot identify certain people. It is known that some of the managers are unco-operative. If a manager is unco-operative, then what system are you going to institute? You can only institute an affidavit system, because somebody must identify the man. I know that people have tricked the Board already.

Now, how can you get over this matter? Somebody hears that you are paying out money from 1956. He turns to a friend and says: "Was not your mother working at Balls in 1956?" He says yes and he goes and puts down her name and tries to get some money. That is where I believe a lot of exploitation can go on, and you must have some means of dealing with such matters. We have three members on the Board now. I am not a member of the Board at the moment and I can speak freely. I felt that I should have been a member of the Board in the initial stages, so that I could identify some of the people. Some of our own Union officers are members of the Board. We have a man who works at a factory; we have a Union officer going through the country, and they have to help identify some of these people because they know them. It is a good thing you have members who can do that. I think that the Minister will have to consider what measures he can use in order to speed up the administration. At one time they did not have an office and the Labour Department was unsuitable. They could not process the applications down there properly, and hon. members should know of these things.

To give you an example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some of the factories were closed down four years

ago, and two years ago the people had not yet received what should be given to them out of the Severance Fund. I am glad that this has been done, and I hope that the Minister will see to it that the administration within the Labour Department is improved. It is necessary to have enough officers to do the work. My view is that you should take on enough people even on a casual basis to bring the work up to date, have the payments made, and then let some of the people go. If you do not take on a few clerks on a permanent basis and a lot of clerks on a temporary basis, then you will never get through with the job. The backlog is too great for any conventional six or eight people working at a desk day by day in the light of the way that civil servants work. They must come in on mornings, read the newspapers first, go outside and have a smoke, go to lunch and when they return it is time to pack up and go home. You have a lot of people doing those things, so when you have that conventional system it is not easy to get work done.

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I am not going to go over all of what has been said on the occasion when the Bill was debated, except that I wish to thank the hon. member who has just sat down for not disagreeing with me in any essential fact upon the speech that I made in dealing with the Provident Fund. It will be for members and the public to decide whether the 5 years delay by our party was or was not more or less reprehensible than the 8 years delay by the other party, because the Provident Fund money started to be paid out in 1969.

I believe that some of what I said upon that occasion - I refer to the historical part - may, possibly, have anticipated some of what the hon. member wished to say. I now wish to congratulate him on anticipating a good deal of what I wish to say on the Resolution. I want the Minister and the member for St. Michael West to hear at an early stage that nobody that I have heard blames the Board for anything. I have not heard anybody criticise the Board for the way in which it is administering the funds, and criticisms of the Minister or the Ministers concerned have, in my hearing and as far as my own opinion goes, been confined to general criticisms upon the entire principle as we have enunciated in our speeches here today. We do not think on this side that it is at that level that the fault must be found. This money should have been voted long ago, and I would not be surprised to find that it is too little as well. But that is not the level to which we direct our criticisms.

You can imagine, Sir, how I feel when I pick up the phone to ring the civil servants at the Board. All of them are very courteous and helpful to the

best of their ability, but it is their ability, perhaps, and their training at which criticisms sometimes have to be directed. How do you think I feel when I ring the Provident Fund telephone's own number and ask: When did the Act come into force and what is the Statutory Instrument that brought it into force? A young man tells me 1956. I am pleased on political grounds that he should tell members of the public that the Provident Fund dates from 1956. I then say that I do not mean that, and he says "1968". I say I do not mean that. When did the 1968 Act come into force? He calls a young lady to the phone and she tells me: "1956, but you can only get 5 years." All of these are things that I ought to know. I then say that I want to know when it came into force, and she says: "You mean the date that the money pays from." I say yes, and she says: "The 3rd November, 1964." None of those civil servants has been trained to understand that the Provident Fund Act came into force on the 3rd November, 1969 by a proclamation. That is something which is vital to be explained to them. If the member for St. Michael West takes a note of this he may be able to help. They are all trained to work out people's pensions from the 3rd November, 1964. A great deal of time will be saved if they are told that you work it out from the 3rd November, 1969, and you add on a lump sum depending on how old the pensioners are.

With regard to the case to which the hon. and learned member for St. Joseph referred, I can confirm that a lady for whom he was negotiating for during her lifetime but who died some time ago, when her family approached the officers and not the Board they were told that they would get a \$100. No calculations have been made of the lady's estates true entitlement, because some civil servant who must have opened the file says that she is to get \$100 and puts away the file. If the Chief Labour Officer or a member of the Board went into the case, he would give out that file to be worked on. A calculation would be made and, perhaps, the money would be passed by the Board only to await collection by the legal representative. But at the lowest level of clerk who operates these things, he only knows about the \$100 funeral grant and that is all with which he deals.

The hon. member for St. Michael West has spoken on how difficult it is for the Board to process these things in time. I myself do not believe that it is the Board's time which is limited. I believe that, in that office, since money has been limited, applications have not been processed at the speed that they would be if there was enough money to pay them.

5.20 p.m.

You got a spate of activity in November when \$900,000 were transferred from the Price Stabilisation Fund to the Provident Fund, not just activity of paying, but an activity of processing the applications. (*Asides*) The money may have been voted in time for Christmas, but I do not know that Civil Servants work any harder at Christmas. I would have said the opposite in fact. But I know that a lot of work was done then and that is because they had money to pay. Now that they have money to pay again, the Minister and the Board must get behind the Civil Servants and instruct them to get out some money for these people. If there are 2,000 people each with arrears of \$1,200 — I do not know if they all have these arrears — this amount of money is not going to be enough to pay all the outstanding arrears. This is why I wonder if it is enough. (*Asides*) I heard the hon. member for St. Andrew say that they have to take the experts' advice. We in the Opposition are even in a worse position than hon. members over there? we do not even get the experts' advice? we have to be our own experts and advise ourselves, and on something like this all we can say is that we hope for the poor, indigent and old people's sake the Government has got proper advisers and has voted the appropriate sum of money. There are 2,000 outstanding applications. How long should it take to process one if the necessary affidavits are in? There are numerous, not one or two, but I would say that 90 percent of all the claims that I ring that Provident Fund office about are in order. It is only about 10 percent that are not in order, where the manager would not certify or the certificates cannot be got. When you ring up they tell you to ring back in a day or two, or the same afternoon, and sometimes in an hour they would have found the file, checked it and satisfied themselves that it is in order.

Now if they can do that with a little prod from a member of Parliament or from a lawyer, — I think it is members of Parliament that they go to mostly, and if you happen to be in the unfortunate position of being both you are expected to know that much more about it — if they can do that with a little prodding from outsiders, so much more could they do if the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union brought his prestige, for as he says his job is as important as that of anybody in Barbados today, to bear on the problem, and they would work harder. It is a disgrace that there should be this number of persons still outstanding? less than 4,000 out of approximately 6,000 who have made applications. If the money is enough, let the Government get up and give a pledge that it will do its best to clear off all the arrears to these old people within six months. Put a time to it and let the Minister prove his mettle, because whatever the Minister is famous

for in this House, it is not tact, or fluency or parliamentary gifts, but he may well be famous for his administrative skill. Let him prove his administrative skill in this Department in such a way that no subsequent Minister will ever be able to repudiate him by act, word or deed, and let him tell the House that he will try to get these 2,000 outstanding applications cleared off by September. Let him fix a date within six or seven months and he will have the warm cooperation of the Opposition in getting these poor, old and indigent sugar workers at the twilight of their lives of service to Barbados given their money without any further ado or delay.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest to the Minister responsible that in view of the fact that there are numerous difficulties which have arisen with the administration of this fund, it might be expedient and convenient to create rules under the Act and give the Chairman of the Board powers or some authority to amend the rules from time to time, because as the member for St. Michael-West said, there are these numerous problems. We who represent rural constituencies, particularly where the sugar cane is predominant, know how people can flock around the house every morning and complain that their neighbour got his pay and they have not got theirs, and when you phone the office you hear that the file cannot be found or the manager did not send back in the query they sent out. When you ring the manager he says he would like to sign it but he does not know if it will put him in any trouble because he was not at the plantation during their time.

If you are going to take Civil Servants and ask them to interpret the law, they are not going to use their discretion. I did not say that the Minister has misled anybody. The intention may be there that certain things can be done, but no Civil Servant is going to take this responsibility on his back, and I think the correct thing to do would be to create rules so that the officers dealing with the fund will have a discretion one way or the other, and where there is a doubtful case they can pass it on to the Chief Labour Officer or somebody of this nature. I believe this is a way to expedite these payments, because it is bringing quite a lot of ill-feelings to people who worked on the same plantation.

I had an example I think on Monday morning. A man came to me with his form and said that the plantation manager told him that as long as he was there he will not get the money simply because the man said he was not working in burnt canes this year. These are things with which we are faced from day to day and I will ask the Minister to think very hard along these lines, and the Board itself together with the Labour Department would know of the problems which have been created,

the day to day problems which have got to be referred, and make rules along these lines even if Parliament approves them in the beginning, and leaves somebody else to make the necessary amendments as time goes on.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the suggestion that staff must be employed for dealing specifically with the backlog at the Sugar Workers Provident Fund Office. Too often workers come from the country districts and go to the Board's Office to find that the application form cannot be found. My own experience has been that it cannot be found by one officer, but another officer who is putting a little more into his work will be able to locate the application form. You will find all the members of staff are not as familiar as they might be with the system which is at present employed. You will find as in the case of Spring Hall Company Ltd. which comprises a group of estates, say, Lamberts, The Castle, Cottage and the like, that a person who worked at the Castle sends in his application as having worked at The Castle. He might go and tell the Clerk that he worked at The Castle, the clerk goes and he does not see any file for The Castle and tells the worker who has come from St. Peter or St. Lucy that there is no application there for him; but then when he gets in touch with another clerk, he says the form is filed under the Spring Hall Group, and owing to this the worker feels he has lost a day from earning something coming to look after what he believes is there for him and he becomes dissatisfied.

Another thing is that I must say here and now that I receive maximum co-operation from every member employed by the Provident Fund Board whenever I call. They give me whatever assistance I need and whatever I ask for and it is humanly possible they try to locate it on behalf of any worker whose case I try to represent. However, I find too often again that there are members of staff who are not learning. That is, I quite appreciate that you will find as in the case of the plantation Friendship that there is a Friendship in St. Michael, St. Lucy and I believe in St. George. I agree that in such a case a member of staff might encounter some difficulty, but when you find you 5.30 p.m.

have got tell a member of staff on three consecutive days that Springhall is in St. Lucy, it is annoying, he is not learning. Any member of staff must know after a week or two that Springhall is in St. Lucy, he must have been to school, some of them are lacking and there should be more staff

meetings so that the Head of Department can help them with any problems they have.

This matter of Managers not pulling their weight is creating a definite problem for workers, and I have one case where a man has worked on a plantation for a number of years, he was employed principally as a carpenter from the days when he built the cart wheels, repaired the Manager's house and so on, but when there was no work for him to do he was sent into the fields to supervise the digging of yams and so on, but the Manager at the estate refused to allow that man to send in an application as a labourer, because he said he was paid as a carpenter, and it is unfair to that man. I approached the Manager myself and asked him then to categorise the man as a handyman and the Manager just would not try to help the poor man although he did all these other jobs around the estate and was employed there for quite a number of years.

I feel that something has got to be done because I feel that every hon. member of this Committee would like to know that every worker who is entitled should get something out of it. I understand the Board came across what they called some doubtful cases, and I know that the member from the Worker's Union is investigating these cases. Representation has been made to me that because of political reasons they did not have a fair hearing, and I cannot entertain these things whether they are true or false, but I would prefer to get at the truth. I cannot attempt to direct how the Board should go about its business because I am sure that the Board would like to function and to give the appearance of being free from politics in its dealings with the workers, but when you have doubtful cases some person should be appointed to investigate those cases and the person cannot be accused of having political leanings in arriving at a decision which would affect a worker in any way, because there is a case where a worker in the Hayman's group of estates is supposed to have been out something like three days according to his birth certificate and that prevented him from getting his pension from the Provident Fund. He feels now that politics prevented him from getting this benefit.

I do not know how true these things are, but I would not like to entertain the idea that politics is responsible for them.

One other thing I would like to make mention of is this, the staff of the Provident Fund Board must be people who can interpret the language of the sugar workers, who can understand the sugar

workers' language. It is very important they must be able to exercise the type of patience that is necessary in dealing with these sugar workers because when these workers go to the Board's office they go there as a right, they have a right to be there, and we are asking that they be treated like human beings.

On the question of the \$100 for paying funeral benefits, for some reason there are too many cases on file that need urgent attention, and the money has not been paid out, and we would like to see these things speeded up.

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

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three money Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C.E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.
5.40 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with Item No. 4 standing in the name of the Prime Minister, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1972.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, this Resolution seeks to give effect to the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1972" which has been made by the Governor-General.

The Order seeks to bring the Schedule to the principal Order up to date by embodying all full-time pensionable posts established during 1971. All of these posts are set out in the Schedule.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

CENTRAL BANK OF BARBADOS ACT, 1972

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Item on the Order Paper is Item No. 5, and it stands in the name of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. It is to move the second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Bank of Barbados and for connected purposes.

We propose to postpone this matter for today's sitting, and I am asking hon. members, now that they have a copy of the Bill together with a memorandum in their hands, to be prepared to deal with it on Tuesday next week when we meet at 2.30 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE TO MOTOR SERVICES LIMITED OF LAND AT FONTABELLE ROAD

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Item No. 6 standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands and Labour be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 6 is to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the lease to Motor Services Limited of land off Fontabelle Road in the City. The Hon. Minister was replying when the House was suspended, and the Hon. Minister may continue.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the time of the suspension of the House at its last sitting, I was making a reply to certain criticisms made regarding this Resolution. In order to pick up the threads of my address and, of course, for the benefit of the *Advocate* newspaper which I hope is present and will duly report the proceedings here this afternoon. I want to recapitulate a bit. At the last sitting I showed that it was this Chamber itself that had approved the leasing of this land at Fontabelle at the rate for which we were seeking approval for Motor Services Limited. In other words, 12 cents per square foot per annum. I assured members that lands at the Harbour, part of the same reclaimed lands, were being rented at 10 cents per square foot to

industries by the Industrial Development Corporation. In fact, these lands rented to Motor Services Limited were being rented at a higher rate than lands being rented to industries already established in this country.

I also showed hon. members that lands at Seawell were rented at a lower rate than lands at the Harbour. I remember that it was argued that lands at the Harbour were reclaimed lands and that the rates of rents at the Harbour should be higher than the rates for rents at Seawell where we also have estates. I stated then that I did not know, in fact, whether the rates were too high or too low, but I went on to show that I had stated that the earlier rates, which were 10 cents per square foot as recommended by the Ministry of Finance, were increased. I had put it to the Ministry of Finance that the rents were too low. It was the Ministry of Finance that had proposed the rates of 10 cents per square foot. I said that I thought the rates were too low, and we renegotiated the rates upwards to 12 cents per square foot. That is the point I was making when we took the adjournment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it does not seem to me as though the members are objecting to the lease of the land, but to the lease of the land at 12 cents per square foot. My point is that the rates were passed by Parliament itself in this House. We are doing what the hon. member for St. Michael West said this afternoon. He said that we do not appear to do our homework and that we pass laws today and come back tomorrow and criticise them. That is exactly what happened in this case. We have already passed the rates here and we are now criticising them. The members of the Opposition themselves have already agreed to these rates. That is the point I made on the last occasion and the point I am making again.

Of course, Sir, the distasteful insinuation was made that, perhaps, members on this side have shares in Motor Services Limited. I find this rather deplorable. Members do not seem to learn from experience. I remember distinctly during the last Parliament that, almost on every Tuesday at each sitting of the House, this was the kind of allegation which was made. Tuesday after Tuesday they said that members on this side had shares in this and in the other. Clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, some members have not learned from their mistakes and their experiences. The experience of the 9th September should have taught them to approach their parliamentary matters in a different manner, but they are very slow to learn. (*Asides.*) I am listening to the asides but I cannot hear them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I want to deny categorically that I stated last Tuesday that the Opposition was not entitled to the plan. I never stated that the Opposition was not entitled to the plan. In fact, that is what the Leader of the Opposition said when he made his speech. However, he himself knows what the situation is. The truth is that members of the Opposition are not entitled to the plan. As a matter of courtesy I can show them the plan and I will show them the plan, but this is only an act of courtesy.
5.50 p.m.

The plan forms part of my files and they are not entitled to see Government files. So to say that they are entitled to plans is like saying they are entitled to Government files. However, Sir, I may yet show them the plan, because I want to show them in fact how ridiculous their whole arguments have been.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Minister will permit me, on a point of explanation, I accept what he says. If I used the words "entitled to see the plan" and it was construed to mean on that side entitled in the sense that we are entitled to see the Waterworks plans for example by law, I did not intend it to be construed in that sense. What I intended to convey and what I will state now is that universal parliamentary precedent is that when the Government is leasing, purchasing or selling land that it presents a plan for the whole House to see. This is universal practice in the House.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have the plan here. This plan shows as I stated when I introduced the Resolution that the area of land was 1,078 square feet, but it shows more than this. It also shows that this area of land is part of Fish Alley and we are seeking to lease to Motor Services Limited that part of Fish Alley that in fact belongs to the Government. According to the plan, at the narrowest point this land is less than eight feet wide; at the widest point the land is nine feet wide; so here we have an area of land that is nine feet wide at its widest point and less than eight feet wide at its narrowest point. Now can you tell me what use is this land to anybody except an adjacent owner? Would any of the members of the Opposition take any land that is nine feet wide and rent it at 12 cents a square foot.

On the plan, the part that the Government intends to lease to Motor Services is shaded in red. This was an area called "Fish Alley" which I believe years ago was a right-of-way, but for whom I do not know. The hon. member is a lawyer and should know that if it was a public highway and it was abandoned that it reverts to the original

owners. In fact, the member for St. Peter quite rightly said that Fish Alley no longer existed today.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, if it is abandoned as a highway, it would not be the property of the Government to lease. It would revert to the owners; so the Government would not need to lease it to anybody.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: I said the Government owned part of Fish Alley and that part that is patched in red is the part that belongs to the Government which it intends to lease.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I was leaving the public buildings yard after the adjournment on the last occasion, I recall that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition came up to me and stated then that in fact he had looked up the records and there was nothing in the records about the price. I too have looked up the records and in a way he is quite correct. I would like to read from the records of 16th February, 1968 to which I made reference on the last occasion. I will read from the speech of the Hon. J. C. Tudor on a Resolution to approve a lease of land west of Fontabelle. It reads as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that this portion of land is on that side of Prescod Boulevard — they know from their knowledge and they will see it from the Plan — which is not under the control of the Development Board. Consequently, a decision had to be taken as to whether or not it should be leased by the Government for industrial and commercial purposes, and this decision was taken. It was further decided that it should be leased on certain terms renewable at the expiration of the given period and for further terms at negotiated rents. The matter therefore arises because the Government has received applications for the purchase or lease of land in this area from several firms and business interests including Motor Services Ltd., Tartan Metal Company, British Paints, Collins, Courtesy Garage, Wilkinson and Challenor, Rocklyn Bus Company and so on. It has been decided, therefore, in the light of the desire to develop that whole area, so far as this is practicable, as a thriving industrial and commercial centre, that leases could, with propriety, be entertained, and they only require that legislative authority should be sought and given.

Hon. members would see if they look at the plan and read the First Schedule the delineations and delimitations of the various pieces, and if they look at the Second Schedule they would see the

divisions with respect to the terms and conditions under each lease which when approved are to be enjoyed.

I do not know if there is any thing more hon. members would wish me to say, but, if so, if raised in discussion, I should be glad to answer any questions which would then come up."

Now reference was made by the Hon. Leader of the House then to the Second Schedule of the Resolution. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Second Schedule to the Resolution reads:

"The parcel of land described in the First Schedule may be leased to such firms or individuals as may apply within twelve months from the date of the Resolution giving general approval of leasing the lands for periods of from fifteen to twenty-five years in the first instance at a rental of twelve cents per square foot renewable at the expiration of this period for a further term of twenty-five years at a re-negotiated rent."

This clearly shows, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that in fact Parliament had approved (a) the rent at 12 cents square foot and (b) had approved the term between fifteen and twenty-five years with an option to renew. This clearly shows that Parliament had given this approval and, when we came with this Resolution which is before this Chamber, we were not springing anything new on Parliament, because Parliament has already given the stamp of approval to it for an area of land that is so small. The rates, I would submit, are not exorbitant for the area of land involved, and to come with the insinuations that members of this House may have shares in Motor Services is ridiculous, because I can now state and I would have stated then had I been given an opportunity that we refused permission to rent to Motor Services Ltd. an additional 20,498 square feet.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the records go further than that, the records show that the Hon. C. E. Talma begged to second that, but I do distinctly recall that the member for St. James when he spoke on the Resolution stated that at that time the members of the Opposition did not agree to the 12 ¢ per square foot and they divided the House on this issue. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the records state: "The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division." These are the records of the House with respect to the earlier Resolution. In fact, all members voted for it, there was no division so do not then state that the House was divided on the issue, they all agreed with it. I do not know what the axe is to grind on this occasion, but I hope I have now convinced hon.

members that in fact the Government has nothing to hide on a Resolution of this nature and it is up to them if they do not want to support it.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:

AYES: Hon'bles. C. E. TALMA, A. DaC. EDWARDS, P. M. GREAVES, Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE, Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Messrs. W. R. LOWE, J. B. SPRINGER, E. E. GREAVES, F. L. WALCOTT; Mrs. G. L. EASTMOND – 10.

NOES: Messrs. J. M. G. M. ADAMS, E. D. MOTTLEY, W. C. B. HINDS and L. S. CRAIG – 4.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND
SITUATED AT BENTHAMS,
ST. LUCY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a simple Resolution which is set out quite clearly. The Resolution, the Schedule and the Addendum are set out very clearly, and I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND
SITUATED AT MAHOGANY
LANE, CITY

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not objecting to the expansion of the Public Library but I will ask the Government to look at Mahogany Lane to see whether there might not be some case for further acquisitions in connection with expanding the actual curtilage of the Law Courts. Parking space is very limited, and these are days when more and more people have motor cars.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this concludes Government Business for today's sitting. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition had given notice last week on a matter which he intended

raising on the adjournment. On that occasion, Sir, it would be remembered that the sitting ended rather abruptly and there was no actual adjournment as such. Your Honour had the duty to perform of adjourning the House in the absence of a quorum. Although the hon. member intimated his intention to raise the matter, I do not know how Your Honour will rule on that. It may well be that the House may feel that, in the circumstances of the case, he should be given the opportunity of exercising the right which he should normally have exercised on the 22nd February and he has that right to exercise it today. On the other hand, I do not know if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has abandoned his intention.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the adjournment has formally to be moved first.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 7th March, 1972, at 2.30 p.m.

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

GOVERNMENT POLICY OF
IMMIGRATION

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in good time, to comply with Standing Order No. 15, I gave Mr. Speaker notice in writing and I understood from him that there being no other hon. member who wished to raise any matter on the adjournment that the ordinary allotment of time, subject of course to the pressure of Government Business, would be granted to myself and the hon. members on this side who might wish to raise certain questions on a most important point of the moment and to the Minister responsible for the subject to reply. I am very glad that, although the opportunity could not be taken last Tuesday to deal with this matter, members of the Government recognising the importance of the immigration issue, for that is the issue which formed the subject of my notice, have remained with us this afternoon to make a quorum and to answer the necessary questions.

We, in the Opposition, did not feel that a Resolution either criticising, condemning or approving of the Government's actions particularly would meet the problem which we think has concerned Barbadians a very great deal over the last six weeks, and this is the problem of the Immigration Act, 1952. All countries must have an immigration policy, and in countries where there

is a high degree of unemployment we quite readily and freely concede must have a more restricted immigration policy than others. For this purpose, as I conceive it, the Immigration Act of 1952 was passed.

Now, it is my deep and sincere belief, having talked to many of the civil servants who have been concerned with the administration of the Immigration Act, having talked to all the Ministers except the present Minister who has brought this new and vigorous wind of change blowing through — I will not repeat the words of the Prime Minister a few years ago when he said what dark corners the wind of change was blowing through. Having talked to all of these persons, I am convinced that the scheme of the Immigration Act is improperly understood in the Ministry.

I can hardly believe that so experienced an officer, and I must refer to his office although it is not necessary in certain instances to call his name, as the Government Security Officer was unaware three weeks ago when I spoke to him that there are such things as the Immigration Regulations, 1963. The person who previously dealt with it, who I believe is the substantive Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, was unaware of the interplay of Section 17 of the Act; was unaware of the provisions of Section 11 of the Act — I am only reporting to the House what these officers have told me, Sir. It may be that they were fooling me, but the substance of what they said convinced me that ignorance rather than sincerity was the foundation of their conversation. They were unaware of all those provisions.

Sir, the Act sets out a scheme by which anybody coming to Barbados is in effect a prohibited immigrant unless he can show that he comes within a limited number of categories. In those days it used to be called natives of Barbados, and in effect now it is limited to citizens of Barbados their dependants and one or two other persons. I am not going to set it all out at the moment. Hon. members can look at the Act of 1952 and see what is there. An Immigration Officer is entitled to admit anybody into Barbados on a temporary purpose and renew the permission given to such persons to remain in Barbados for up to three years, and it is at this point I believe that the administration of the Act has not been properly understood. After three years, even in Colonial times, they then had to refer to the Governor and later on to the Executive Committee to decide what should be done with the people who have been here for three years. I understand that the purpose of that was to say that a man comes here for three years for a temporary purpose; the Police can admit him, and at the end

of three years the Government can decide whether it is somebody who should be allowed to remain in Barbados on a permanent basis.

I do not believe that the Immigration Officers have been administering the Act on that basis, and I do not believe that they understood the concept of the initial 3-year period. I may be wrong, but all that I have seen regarding the administration of the Act forces me to think that Section 17 of the Act which is the Section that gives permission to anybody who has been here more than three years to stay — that is the only Section under which that can be granted — is properly used. I think that a good deal of the discord of recent times could have been solved if the Act and its Regulations had been properly understood.

For example, for all that is said at the present time about it only being a certain class of foreigner from North American countries who is punished by this Act, I have yet to see any Englishman, Canadian or American served with a notice that he is a prohibited immigrant in the proper form of the Immigration Regulations. I have yet to see any white foreigner in the popular sense given a marching order notice and dragged to the docks of the Police Courts there to be arrested and kept in custody. The white foreigners are given polite letters saying that they have to leave Barbados by a certain time. (*Asides*) I will deal with that.

Only yesterday my hon. and learned Friend the member for the City of Bridgetown had a case with a St. Lucian who was in the courts with one of the proper form prohibited immigrant notices. What notices have been served on...

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member is a lawyer, and I am sure he knows that Police Officers have authority to arrest anyone who is breaking the law, and if in the course of their investigation it is further discovered that that person is here illegally, he is brought before the magistrate and charged with being a prohibited immigrant without any reference to the Ministry. The hon. member should not try to give the impression that this has anything to do with the Ministry, because it has nothing whatsoever to do with the Ministry. This is a matter of the administration of justice and the Police have that authority under the law.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: I have no idea what point that interruption was meant to elucidate, therefore I cannot deal with it. I can only say I have practised law in this country for a number of years; I have appeared in immigration cases where a St. Lucian was making a nuisance of himself to his wife, they

were separated, she was a Barbadian and she went and got the police to serve him with the appropriate notices and bring him before the Court. I believe she was the sister of a policeman or something like that, and he had not committed any crime. I am going to deal with the question of wives at a later stage. I can only say, I do not know, that in my observation the people who find themselves before the Courts on the receiving end of police action are St. Lucians, Dominicans, Trinidadians, Guyanese and Vincentians. They are the ones upon whom the prohibited immigrants notices are served. Mind you, it is a great advantage to be served with those notices since a judicial officer will sit on your case and can decide upon the criteria laid down in the Act whether you are a prohibited immigrant or not and not a Minister. Let us get that quite clear. If I were a prohibited immigrant I would prefer the law to deal with me as an alleged prohibited immigrant by way of a court than by way of any of these Ministers or civil servants.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition wants a case of a white man who was dragged before the courts and charged for being a prohibited immigrant, I can give him the case of one. A man who was charged with having dope at Southern Palms was brought before the Courts and was declared a prohibited immigrant. He was a Canadian citizen.

Mr. HINDS: On this point the Minister knows that all the people from Southern Palms who were involved in the same dope were not brought before the court and the same Minister knows that some of the same people are now employed at the hotel school teaching people.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am afraid I have to rise on a point of order. I have absolutely no knowledge...

Mr. HINDS: The Hon. Minister very well knows and I will prove that the Minister knows.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER rose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are any more interruptions like that...

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to deny categorically that I have no knowledge of any offences as referred to by the hon. member for St. Peter. In fact, when I first knew of the man from Canada who was declared a prohibited immigrant, he had already been charged before the Courts and sent out. I am not the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I recall the case of the gentleman from Southern Palms quite well. I must confess I thought he was deported under a general provision that anyone who is found not to be a native of Barbados in addition to any punishment may be deported, but apart from that, the fact is that it seems to me that if it is desired to get rid of persons of humble West Indian origin, they end up with the notices; the North Americans get letters from the Ministry.

Now, Sir, this is the Act. Those are the questions on that part which I want the present Minister of Home Affairs to answer. I am obliged to the former Minister for all his interruptions. I am sure that they will be of at least as much assistance to the present Minister as the former Minister's entire policy; but I must not make trouble. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to ask the Minister if he will consider as a matter of deliberate policy serving notices upon those people if they have broken the law, because I am not hiding anything. If you are in Barbados without permission to remain in Barbados, you have committed a criminal offence and you can be summoned for it. I am not in favour of arresting people who are not criminals; but you can say this man's permission has run out or he is not doing what he should, send him a summons under the Immigration Act for entering and remaining in Barbados while a prohibited immigrant with not having permission to do so, because I like to see action in the courts. I like the court to be able to say this man is wrong.

The idea of sending any letter giving people 72 hours' notice to leave to my mind is in a way treating a man worse than if he were a criminal. Unlike many hon. members who are in this House, I have lived and made my living in a strange country, and I know what it is like to be a stranger in a strange land. We cannot have the immigration policy of England because even at its most restrictive it is still at the moment a good deal less restrictive than Barbados since it is still possible for the husbands of English women to live in England, although not admitted necessarily to their Home Office status, and it is still on the statute books that vouchers for jobs can be issued at large to people to come to look for work in England — persons of certain skills. I do not know if they are issuing any now, but it is there in the law.

This brings me to the next point. I am going to suggest to the Minister that Barbados has no immigration policy at all. It only has restrictions. There is something in an immigration policy which of necessity must be negative; there is also to be something which is positive. Every country can benefit from persons coming to it to live from

other countries, that is my point of view. In Barbados the possible benefits have to be weighed against the unemployment situation and against the legacy of the plantation and the colonialist system which makes employers at every level in Barbados and citizenry as a whole believe that there is some magic in persons from England and North America. We all have to be aware of that and any Government would have to administer such a policy. The immigration policy of Barbados as I see it appears to be carried on entirely on a basis of restriction. There is nothing positive about it. I will give an example of what I mean and invite the Minister to consider this. If a doctor applies to come to Barbados to take up general practice or an architect or a teacher or a cane cutter, these are job categories all of which are difficult to supply in Barbados. My view is that if a man wants to come here to be a doctor, you must give the man a general licence to practise to be a doctor if he is a suitable person. If you want doctors, give them licences. Doctor is easy because doctors are generally self-employed persons. You may wish to make them work at the hospital, but equally you may feel that the need for general practitioners is so great that you let them go into general practice. I am sure we will hear about that in a minute. But take an architect. Architects are needed in Barbados. I am told there is only one fully university trained Barbadian architect in the Island. My view again is that the man should be allowed to come and practise the profession of architect, because I am going to go on to what I call the schoolmaster syndrome in a moment, the way these things are administered.

A man, if he is to cut canes, must be given a licence to come to Barbados, stay for the crop season or whatever and cut canes wherever he feels like. How wrong would it be if a man comes to cut canes at Dunscombe Plantation and he and the overseer have a few words and he tells the overseer what he can do with his job and goes down the road to Norwood to cut canes, then to have the Minister of Home Affairs write and tell him that he was given permission to work at Dunscombe and he is working at Norwood, so he is going to have to be deported? That would be wrong, and this is where the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union should take a hand. It interrupts the free market in labour because it creates a class of docile employees who are afraid to stand up to their employers since being foreigners they can be victimised by the employer saying, if you disagree with me I will go to the Ministry of Home Affairs and get you put out. The Minister knows it is true. An employer has gone to him recently and put out a Dominican baker, telling the Minister that the Dominican baker would not train a Barbadian.

6.30 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: On a point of order, I would like to tell the hon. member that what he has just said is absolutely incorrect, no employer has come to me about any Dominican Baker.

Mr. ADAMS: I am sorry, I mean the Ministry. I am speaking of the Imperial Minister in this sense, he embraces all. Let him investigate the case. He will find that there is a case of a Dominican baker, married to a Barbadian girl, who must have had some disagreement with the employer and the employer said he has told the Minister that he tried to get the man to train a Barbadian and he would not train him, so put him out. I do not know a thing about it. All the parties, so to speak, are neutral where I am concerned, and I do not know the details between the employer and the man, but knowing the past history of the establishment it appears to me that it is not by any means impossible that this particular employer is taking advantage of the Immigration Act to rid him of certain obligations he might have to a troublesome employee.

These are factors we have to bear in mind. We are thinking on the immigration issue all the time of the great and the mighty, those who consort with politicians, Ministers past and present, and those who move on the west coast. We have to remember that the overwhelming majority of non-Barbadians who live in Barbados come from the small islands and they have problems too, and that what can be done to the English and the Americans can be done the very next day to St. Lucians and Vincentians.

I was dealing with job categories and I spoke about cane cutters and doctors. I want to say this, how do you think the public can look at a situation where you hear Barbados has one doctor for every 2,000 people? Is that correct? I got it from a member of the Cabinet, so that is all I can say, and the same member of the Cabinet can tell me that the Director of Medical Services said we have enough doctors, or that some time in the past he said we have enough doctors. The United Nations standard is either one to one thousand or one to twelve hundred, I am not even sure, but how can anybody say knowing Barbados that Barbados has enough doctors? It is said — again I have heard this, all these are things that are boiling up in this recent immigration issue — but it is said that when a man goes into private practice here that within two years the youngest doctor already is attending to more patients than the maximum he would be allowed to if he practised on the British Health Service; that the maximum in London is less than the average number of patients whom a G.P. has to look after once his practice is established.

Who can say in those circumstances that Barbados has enough doctors, and who can believe in a policy which runs down the foreign doctors and says that they did not do their term in the hospital therefore they should not be allowed to stay here? That is the phrase of another member of Cabinet. Who can imagine that that is a sensible attitude towards immigration in Barbados or towards the medical problems of the population as a whole?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not wish to deal too much with individual categories, but I want at this stage to enter a particular plea. I believe I was the person to raise in this House the question of Barbadian women married to foreign husbands. Senator St. John and I raised it again subsequently, I have raised it in Bermuda at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and was gratified to see, Sir, that at least I could make the headline of Bermuda's leading newspaper with it but was unable to achieve any such prominence in Barbados, and I said as a principle that the Commonwealth territories in the Caribbean ought to adopt this. I am inalienably opposed to discrimination against Barbadian women in any form, and such discrimination exists when you tell Barbadian women that if they wish to choose a foreign man they will have to choose between Barbados and the man. Any of us in this House, except the hon. member for St. Michael North East — whom I expect both for reasons of her sex, she is a lady, and even at a personal level — will agree with me on this. Except for that hon. member, any hon. member of this House can marry whom he wants and have his spouse live with him in Barbados.

A number of us in this House have taken advantage of that, and I am sure the Leader of the House and I are extremely happy men — and indeed the Prime Minister — we are all extremely happy men, and the Minister of Education. The Minister for Communications and Works lived in Jamaica once, Sir, and we are all happy men, I believe, as a result of it. I am totally opposed to refusing Barbadian women that freedom of choice. I know of no civilised country where, subject to the parties living together and subject to conditions of public security and public policy, the husbands of nationals are not allowed to live there. (*Asides*).

Sir, am I going to hear the Minister interrupting me all the time? I say in this house that I know of no civilised country where the husbands of nationals are not allowed to live there, and I am going to hear from the husband of a Jamaican national to contradict me that he lived there. What kind of idiot could that be, Sir?

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of explanation, I lived in Jamaica. I went to

Jamaica before it became independent and if I had left the Jamaican Civil Service I would have had to get a work permit even though I was there in 1958, and I am the husband of a Jamaican national, so I know exactly what I am talking about.

Mr. ADAMS: I know what he is talking about, Sir, he lived in Jamaica, he knows what he is talking about today. Now, Sir, a great deal of ignorance prevails upon this point of Barbadian women. It is believed that you necessarily have to advocate that the husband of a national gets automatic citizenship in order to advocate that she be free to marry somebody and still live in Barbados. The two things are not the same. I am by no means sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I would support the amendment to the Constitution to provide that the husband of a national gets automatic citizenship. I am by no means sure of that. I am absolutely sure that I would support a policy by which the husband of a national is granted automatic residence irrespective of any question of work permits or any matter that does not pertain to security and the public safety of Barbados.

I state that quite categorically. It should be point number one of the immigration policy of that country that the husband of any national — as exists in the United States, as exists in the United Kingdom, no matter what the former Minister says, I am the husband of an English national, do not tell me any foolishness — (*Asides*) Well, all right, it does not exist in the United Kingdom, he says so, he may know, I am married to one and I know, that is all I can say, members will have to choose between us. All you have to do is to go and ask the British High Commissioner what are the conditions under which a Barbadian can join his English wife and he will tell you as long as the man is not going to be a charge upon the public and his wife wants him no difficulties are placed in his way. He does not have to apply for a work permit, he is allowed to reside in England as a matter of course and after five years he is entitled to automatic registration as a citizen. I will only have to suggest to hon. members that they must take it from me. It may be that they are lying to me at the British High Commission and they are giving the former Minister of Home Affairs the truth, but I would have to see it in writing. I do not believe he is the sort of person to tell untruths, I think he just makes some serious mistakes sometimes. Civilised countries have this policy. If a Barbadian woman marries a foreigner — an Englishman, a St. Lucian or anything — in my mind that man should be entitled to have residence in Barbados.

6.40 p.m.

Again, Sir, we are looking at people like the gentleman from the Hornburg Shop, the Computer

Operator and so on. (*Asides*) Does not the Minister know about the Government's Computer Operator? There was some quarrel between I.B.M. and the Government; the Government would not believe what I.B.M. told them about it being impossible to train anybody to operate the Government's old-fashioned 1400 computer that the manufacturers stopped making in 1955. It was impossible to train Barbadians to work it. They have sent Barbadians away to be trained to work more modern computers. They will have to get a foreigner to come here and service the computer, but they have put out the husband of a Barbadian, an American, who was sent here to service the Government computer. He was told that he could come here for six years; he now hears that there are difficulties; he will only get three years and so on, and he finds himself aeroplaned out, and you will still have to get another foreigner to come here and service the computer. Could that be right, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The man may not have received his marching orders, but he has received his conversations with the Government Security Officers and others. He may not have received a letter saying that he must leave in 72 hours. He has received an indication that the 3-year renewal which was promised to him would not now be given.

He has a daughter at Queen's College and another child at an infant school. Hon. members, who are parents of children, are aware of what it means when you decide to settle somewhere and put your child through Queen's College if it took the examinations and got in. Such hon. members will be aware of what it will mean to that family and that child to have to go away. There is even something further, the Barbadian woman and the man concerned came here on medical advice obtained in the United States. The Barbadian lady concerned was advised that her nervous condition would not respond to treatment until she returned to Barbados and be with her family. It is such people who find themselves being put out, I presume, because of a dispute between the Government and I.B.M., but I do not know. I can only guess that there is some talk, because the people themselves may be too simple to understand it. These are the people who are coming under the lash of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the present time.

Sir, I have a list of all of the husbands, but I am not going to read them all out to the House. I am sure the Minister is more familiar with them than I am. On our side of the House, since some of these people being removed are outstanding yard fowls of the Democratic Labour Party, there is even pressure to say that we should be glad certain people are gone. I am not glad that any or all of

them have gone. They can stay here and canvass as much as they like. As far as I know every English person in St. Thomas voted for Mr. Boxill, but I do not want even them put out or even moved from St. Thomas so long as they are married to Barbadian women. They must stay here, and that is our view. A policy must be evolved by which a Barbadian woman be allowed to live in Barbados, if she chooses, with the husband of her choice.

Sir, in dealing with these foreigners, you must remember that a great majority of Barbadian women who have romantic associations or are married to foreigners are in fact quite simple, ordinary Barbadian workers. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: You should have married a Barbadian.) The influx of cane-cutters from St. Vincent and St. Lucia and the continuing surplus of women in the countryside is creating many liaisons. I have instances in Arch Hall, St. Thomas, in Windsor, St. George, I can say in Martins Bay, St. John, and the Minister will know what I mean. They are people at a very simple level, too. (*Asides*) Is the Minister saying he does not know anything at all? Does he not read his files? Is he repudiating his own policy? He wants to get such popularity as can be raised at any time by an attack on foreigners. You must never forget that Enoch Powell could not be the household word that he is throughout the world if he did not attack foreigners. People who attack foreigners, as Enoch Powell has done, are persons in the same psychological class. Hitler, Enoch Powell and the anti-foreign spirit are all one. It is the easiest thing in the world to whip up sympathy when you say let us be up against them. Do not let us make any mistake about that. The words of Enoch Powell are exactly the same as the words that emanate from a lot of people who are glad. Now it is the North Americans. A few years ago it was the St. Lucians. I wonder if hon. members do not remember what happened during the Federation, Independence and so on dispute and that there were not lacking persons on their side ready to whip up antipathy to the St. Lucians and so on. Even during the City by-election campaign we saw a good deal of anti-St. Lucians spirit abroad in the City because it was thought that St. Lucians were supporters of the Mottley regime of previous days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people who are primarily affected by, in my opinion, the question of the right of husbands to stay here are the humble St. Lucians of the City of Bridgetown, and the Vincentian cane-cutters. The St. Lucians and Dominicans in Bridgetown, and the Vincentian cane-cutters who are now settling in the countryside. When they started to become problems — (*Asides.*) You are going to have problems. A man may be a decent man and

everything, but he may drink on a Friday night during the crop season? he may have a fight; he may hit somebody on the head, or he may gamble. It is not everybody who is fortunate enough to be able to gamble on protected premises, and there are some persons who may go and transgress that little bit of foolishness called the Gambling Act, which should really be repealed because it makes gambling for the poor a criminal offence while gambling for the rich continues to be a protected activity. I am no hypocrite in these matters. A poor man gambling under a light can be locked up, but other persons who take the precaution of gambling within the law are protected.

Now, all of these offences can be committed by persons of otherwise sound, moral character in our society. I refer to people who are making a Barbadian woman happy. That is the way I look at it. When a man takes a Barbadian woman aged 50 and marries her, he is really performing a service for which no Barbadian is available. If she has reached that age without being married, then we in this House should be glad to think that she is sufficiently attractive to a foreigner who will come and make her middle-age a married and happy one. We should be glad to see that, and I do not mean it frivolously, Sir. The women must have the right to choose their husbands and choose if they wish to remain in Barbados. It is treating one class of person differently from another class by reason of the distinction between people. That is discrimination. If the wife of a Barbadian can remain here with her husband, then why cannot the husband of a Barbadian remain here with his wife even though he may be a foreigner? To me it is a logical and self-evident proposition, and there should be no question of any work permits in those circumstances. In my opinion, to whip up anti-foreign feeling, one of the easiest feelings to be whipped up in any population, to whip up xenophobia and say that these people come from away and they can go back because we cannot go to their country is not only untrue, but it is dangerous and actually immoral in order to defend a policy such as that. I believe the policy was entered into inadvertently and was persisted in stubbornly.

6.50 p.m.

You have certain people sometimes who can never forget they have been schoolmasters and that when they told a boy he must not walk on that path and he found the boy walking on that path, they as schoolmasters are entitled to flog him. The Ministry of Home Affairs cannot process what they call work permits at a sufficient speed to allow people to change their jobs where the situation in their initial job has become intolerable. This is an undoubted situation. I put it forward as a fact that if a foreigner who is in Barbados not to work for a

a particular employer while training a Barbadian, but who is in Barbados because the work he does cannot readily be done by Barbadians — and I am going to instance an architect — is given a month's notice by his employer that he must leave his job, it is impossible for him to get a new job and permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs all in that one month. The Minister knows that. That is one thing if he denied I would have to doubt his sincerity. He knows that if people want to change their jobs that in the ordinary process of affairs they will have changed them before the Ministry can say "yea" or "nay".

How desperately unfair it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when a man is faced with a situation where he cannot obey the conditions in which he entered Barbados, but he may very well upon proper consideration of his situation and his qualifications be allowed to say, yet when he tries to get something honest to keep him alive, he is then told he has broken the conditions because he is working at a place for which he is not given permission. Administratively the Ministry must be prepared to work quickly. This I would put as the next category after the husbands of Barbadian women. They must have a system by which certain job categories carry, subject to review of course, automatic right to stay in Barbados. I have named these categories. They can be added to or subtracted from as Barbadians qualify in them: doctors — I am sure nobody would want to suggest that there is any wish on the part of the Medical Association of Barbados to restrict the number of doctors because that keeps incomes high, dentists, canecutters and architects. There may be others who can add to this. If Barbados needs X canecutters, X canecutters should be given a voucher to cut canes and let them find their own employers, bargain in the free labour market, be free to join the Barbados Workers' Union and undertake the obligations as well as enjoy the benefits for which the Union has worked over a number of years. This is, as I say, category (b). I regard that as essential.

If a man is entitled to come here and be an architect, the fact that he leaves Robertson Ward and goes somewhere else should not be a sufficient ground to ask him to leave. Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is something I will ask the Minister to remember. The Minister must recall that if you break your conditions you can be prosecuted and fined without necessarily being put out of Barbados. You can be carried before the courts if necessary and punished for a breach of conditions while your case is still considered. All that can be done. These are flexibilities in the potential administration of the Immigration Act of which I have seen no evidence at any time whatsoever. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: How long should they stay?)

Is it intended that Barbados is going to be a closed society into which no foreigner can ever enter? The Japanese, one of the most talented people on earth today, remained a backward, primitive and ignorant people because they closed Japan to foreigners until it was forced open in 1854. The most talented people today on earth I think are the Japanese and they could do nothing with themselves until foreigners went to Japan, and they rose from being primitive and unknowing of what the world was really like in a matter of twenty years once their country was open to foreigners.

I am going to tell hon. members many of whom may be concerned with the administration of this Act that there is a good deal in what is said that persons from North America and England come here and enjoy the best jobs in society, and if employers were left free to choose would continue to enjoy the best jobs in society. Nonetheless it is my opinion that if there has been a breaking down of barriers of colour in employment in this Island and social barriers of colour and others, it is as much due to the influx of many white people from abroad who did not have the reactionary attitudes of white Barbadians as to anything else. That is an opinion which if hon. members choose to ask of persons older than themselves who have been in political power, they will confirm. They will discover that in Barclays Bank where the same colour bar was maintained as was maintained in the Barbadian owned white firms for many years that a deliberate and conscious effort was made by the English managers to employ coloured girls as cashiers and in other jobs formerly reserved for whites in the Bank. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: Post 1961!) Post 1961 what, man! I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker. He was talking a lot of nonsense. You were not in Barbados at the time. Ask the hon. member who has just got up and is leaving his seat. You ran away from Barbados then.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: On a point of explanation, I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that I ran away, but people who stayed cannot walk into this House; so the people must have more confidence in me although I ran then than in people who remained in Barbados all the years.

Mr. CRAIG: This is only the mystery of democracy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Leader of the Opposition continue.

Mr. ADAMS: My view is that some leavening of any population is desirable. Sir, I know that at certain times these things come up and if you try to talk in favour of this or against that, you can be very seriously misrepresented. I have no wish to

hide my feelings on any point, but I want to make these things quite clear. I do not know if there were 900 work permits granted by the previous Minister and whether they are to be reduced. This is what I want to hear from the Minister. I just have my views.

You, Sir, were a stranger in a strange land, and I think that you may have a good deal of sympathy with an immigration policy that is properly administered so as to bring the maximum benefit to the immigrant as well as to the place where he has immigrated. There are a number of us in this position and I certainly thank Heaven that I have been allowed the privilege to live in more than one country.

Now, Sir, again the administration of the Act. I said I would say something about the 72 hours earlier. I cannot see how anybody with pretensions to humanity can pick himself up and send a notice on a Friday afternoon to a business man married to a Barbadian girl carrying on a business in Barbados that he must leave Barbados within 72 hours. The banks are not open on Saturday; you may not be able to get an airline passage; you may have a distraught and desperate wife on your hands having to choose between uprooting herself from her family or separation from her husband. I cannot see that. I do not care what anybody tells me, that is morally indefensible except for a criminal. (Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Tell it to the Yankees.) Let the Americans be examples to themselves. American immigration policy is more liberal than ours. If anybody thinks it is not, he has no right holding an office administering immigration. I will send the Minister of Home Affairs a copy of the United States Immigration Act, I have one in my office, and let him read it.
7.00 p.m.

The husband of an American woman, the father of an American citizen, the child of an American citizen, can live in the United States. In addition to that, a nurse, a secretary, a doctor can obtain immediate entrance to the United States on the ground that his skill is wanted in the United States. You are not trying to tell me that the husband of a Barbadian citizen or a doctor or anybody else can obtain immediate entry to Barbados upon that basis. I do not wish to be much longer, because this is not directed to a Resolution, this is a speech which I want hon. members to understand is meant to express the disquiet the Barbadians are feeling at the present time. They want to know how one Government can speak with one voice in November and with such a different voice in January. These are the questions that Barbadians want to know about, and if hon. members wish to see how concerned

Barbadians are they only have to look at the quality of the letters which are being written to the newspapers about this issue. They only have to examine the articles that are being written. E. L. C. may have a particular point of view to put forward, Joe Brome's article, Lawson Bayley's article — I do not agree with everything in all of them — but they are articles which are put forward in my mind upon a basis of thought.

Sir, in closing I just want to say a very little bit about one particular thing. (*Asides*)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the hon. member for St. James please stop interrupting the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I would prefer you to protect me from the hon. member for St. Michael South Central.

Mr. CRAIG: On a point of order, Sir, I think it my right to draw to your attention, as you were catching a little nod there just now,...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I object to that. Will you please take your seat immediately?

Mr. ADAMS: Sir, I just want to deal with a small matter now, the Evangelists. I am sure they are going to be dealt with at greater length by other speakers but I would like to add my quota. How can the Rev. Morris Cerullo be given a work permit to come to Barbados to carry on a crusade, to heal the sick, to cure the blind and to do whatever it is he does to the lame? Thousands of dollars are being collected and going where? I have heard it estimated that Mr. Cerullo has spent more money on this campaign than the two political Parties together spent in radio and press advertising in the last two elections. I have heard that said. How can he get a work permit, not sponsored by any of the long established and respectable fundamentalist churches here, the Nazarene Church, the New Testament Church of God and so on? How can Cerullo, who is nothing to do with any of the churches which go out into the countryside and preach the Word of God to people willing to receive it, get this when the Superintendent of the New Testament Church of God is told that when his time comes he will go, when churches that have one single foreigner — and he may not be a white man either — working for them drawing a salary paid in America but spent in Barbados are told that even that one foreigner must go?

We have plenty of Evangelists here and we do not need these visiting Evangelists. That is my view. (*Applause*) If the Minister of Home Affairs cares to applaud me I appreciate the kind thought

on this point, but if he agrees with me he should not have given the work permit. He cannot have it both ways. He cannot have a crusade in the Park... (*Asides*) Of course I am against most of these crusades, and I am going to be dead against Billy Graham coming here, fresh from advising Governor Wallace how to keep 'down the black people and now coming to Barbados to carry away Barbadian money. Billy Graham, who has progressed from advising Nixon, and, now that Nixon has become a little more liberal has turned from advising Nixon to advising the most conservative of the candidates, and he must come to Barbados, just because Gordon Matthews is his agent here and Gordon Matthews would get on the T.V. and say Mr. Barrow is the greatest man we have ever had? Can we not offend Gordon Matthews so these racketeering crusades carried on by racists must be allowed? Never, Sir. I do not want anybody who is responsible for Morris Cerullo being there in the Park cheering and telling me that I am saying something good when I say he should not be in Barbados offering to heal any sick or cure any blind. I cannot accept that, I do not regard it as serious. The Minister has to carry responsibility for the policy of his Department. That is the way I look at it.

Sir, the first point of principle — the women — I want to hear a reply from the Minister on that. I want to hear a proper reply on the administration of the Act, whether he is satisfied that he has officers who understand the Immigration Act, whether he is getting proper legal advice about these matters. I want to hear him on job categories, whether he does not think that the Ministry's policy should be revised so as to say that certain job categories require so many people at any given time, and that persons wishing to come or to settle here in those job categories will not be discouraged. I want to hear him say that the administration of the Act will be so organised as not to interrupt the free bargaining between employer and employee whether the employer and the employee are Barbadians or not. I am glad to see there is a representative of the Union still here on that point. I want him to tell us about the Evangelists, talk about a specialised problem, and if he cares to explain to the House the case of the computer operator. The case of the gentleman who was never asked for a work permit who is married to a Barbadian — the hon. member for St. Michael North West knows his name, he seems to know him very well. I must confess that the hon. member for St. Michael North West during his regime as Minister the gentleman concerned lived in Barbados interrupted and unimpeded, and it is only in recent weeks that he has received marching orders of any sort. He is the husband of a Barbadian woman, he is not doing anybody any

harm, he is not working, what is the basis for removing such a person? What is the basis for threatening a doctor working in Barbados, not being a Barbadian, whom I believe was encouraged to come here by the Medical Service?

I would like to hear something about those individual cases and how the Ministry can speak with two voices on this question of evangelism; how something like that can be done. There are certain things you cannot train people to do. You cannot train a man to be a man of God, either he has the Spirit or he does not have the Spirit.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, recently in a press interview it was stated that there are 998 people holding work permits in Barbados, and there was a statement attributed to the Minister — I do not know if it is true or not, but I can only say that I have not seen or heard any denial from the Government Information Service — but the statement was to the effect that within a year the number of persons holding work permits will be reduced to 200.

7.10 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to enquire from the hon. member who has just sat down in which interview was that stated by the Minister of Home Affairs, or anybody representing the Minister of Home Affairs, or any Minister of the Cabinet? Who said that it was the intention to reduce the work permits from 998 to 200?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I prefaced my remarks by saying that I do not know whether or not it is true, but there was no denial from the Minister. It appeared in the *Express* and I believe there was an article by *Reuters*. It was also quoted in a letter in the *Advocate* Newspaper. I do not have the letter with me now, but it appeared strange to me how the Minister could make a statement that within the space of a year 998 people holding work permits would be reduced to 200, because it would seem to me to be an arbitrary decision on the part of the Minister.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say that it was drawn to the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs that an article appeared in the *Trinidad Guardian* stating among other things what was mentioned by the hon. member. The matter was taken up with *Reuters* and we had an apology from *Reuters*.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said that I was not aware that the Minister had denied it, but I do not know whether the actual denial appeared in the Press in Trinidad. Anyway, I am

glad to hear the Minister say that it is not true. I was wondering how the Government's policy could be carried out effectively, if it were decided that within a space of one year work permits would be withdrawn from 700 people.

Now, is there any new policy being laid down by the new Minister of Home Affairs? From what I can gather, Sir, it would not appear to be a new policy. It appears to be a review of the operation of the Government's policy within the last 5 years, because the policy of the Government was that a work permit would not be issued to any person unless there was no Barbadian qualified and available to do a particular job. When I came to the House a few weeks ago, I enquired of the Minister among other things -

Would the Minister state what steps were taken by the Government up to the end of 1971 to ensure that the employers to whom work permits were issued were training Barbadian Nationals to take over the jobs on the expiration of the work permits issued to such employers?

The fourth part of that question was:

What steps would be taken in future?

It appears to me that the present Minister of Home Affairs is not satisfied with the steps that were taken — if any were taken — in the past to ensure that Barbadian nationals were being trained for these jobs. In the last Session a question was asked by the hon. member for St. Peter regarding the number of persons who were holding work permits in the hotel industry. The reply which was given on the 11th November, 1969, stated that there were 76 holders of work permits in the Island at that time in the hotel industry. I do not know whether or not that number has decreased or increased, but when we examined Government's policy in relation to the issuing of work permits one thing was quite clear, and it is that the Government never took steps to ensure that the conditions upon which it granted work permits were ever fulfilled. (*Asides.*)

I will give the Minister chapter and verse to show him that he was not ensuring that the conditions were fulfilled. If he granted a work permit to a hotel to bring some person to Barbados on conditions that a Barbadian would be trained to do the job, then let us examine the position with the St. James group of hotels. I think they are known as the St. James hotels, which include either Colony Club or Coral Reef, I do not remember which one, Discovery Bay, Tamarind Cove, Cobblers and so on. If a hotel started with a

parent hotel which is either Colony or Coral Reef and they knew that they wanted to build a subsidiary hotel such as Discovery Bay, then what steps were taken by the original hotel to train Barbadians to take over the management of Discovery Bay? No steps were taken to do that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that if the Minister would look at the list which was made available at the time, he would see that having granted work permits to Colony Club, you had people working at Colony Club on the condition that they would train Barbadian nationals to take over. Colony Club then decided to open a subsidiary hotel. They did not look for Barbadians to train to work in the subsidiary hotel, but they went back to the Government and obtained further work permits to bring in people to manage Discovery Bay. They brought in the manager, the chefs, the accountant of food and beverage and others to do the important jobs. The Government at that stage did not tell the hotels: "Before I grant you these work permits, let me see what training you have done. Why is it that you have been operating in Barbados for such a long time and have not trained any Barbadian to manage your subsidiary hotel?" The Government instead of doing that merely granted them the work permits. (*Asides.*) Do not tell me it is not true. I challenged the Minister, and the answer was given on the 11th November when the list of work permits in the hotel industry was supplied to us. It is known that Discovery Bay and subsidiary hotels in the St. James group of hotels were granted work permits. That is wrong and the Government ought not to have granted work permits to those people. If the Government were ensuring that the hotels were training Barbadian Nationals, then it would not have been necessary to grant work permits to bring in people to work in the subsidiary hotel. You have allowed them to build 4 hotels.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to set the record straight and deny emphatically what is being asserted here by the hon. member for the City. It was not before the end of 1966 that conditions were imposed. Previously people were given indefinite residence in Barbados, but the Prime Minister who was the Premier in those days changed it towards the middle of 1966 and issued a permit for two or three years as the case may be. 7.20 p.m.

It was not until 1966 or thereabouts in fact that further conditions were imposed, and conditions for training Barbadian nationals. If the subsisting work permit relating to any of the hotels to which the hon. member is referring was still in force in 1966, 1967 and 1968 before a

re-application is made, that work permit would not have insisted or had as a condition that the management should be training a Barbadian national. One could have gone right through 1967, 1968 and maybe 1969 before such a condition could have been imposed; so that at the time when the question was asked, it is very possible that there was no condition imposed for training of Barbadian nationals; so to come here now and say that the Government was not making sure the conditions were fulfilled is completely untrue.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is not completely untrue. The answer given states that hotels are normally required as a condition to the issue of work permits to train nationals to fill positions in respect of which applications have been submitted. Let the Minister get up and deny that Tamarind Cove has been taken over by St. James Hotels and they move people from another hotel to manage there when Barbadians were not given the job. The same thing is true of Discovery Bay and Cobblers opened since 1966, and yet you allowed them to bring people here to manage them instead of giving Barbadian nationals.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member knows that Tamarind Cove was opened by a Barbadian national and it was closed down in the middle of last year, and at that time nobody was managing the hotel. He knows that the hotel went through a period without any management because the hotel was closed. I do not know who manages the hotel now, but I know that the hotel began under Barbadian management.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is quite true, but the moment St. James Hotels took over the hotel, that Barbadian national was fired on flimsy grounds and an Englishman was put in the job. How could you give 76 work permits between 1966 when you started the work permits scheme.....

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member. I did not start any work permits scheme. He is suggesting that work permits started in 1966 which is untrue.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When did they start?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: For the information of the hon. member, work permits started in 1965.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You are saying that between 1965 and 1970 when this reply was given that you issued 76 work permits to people in the hotel industry. Let me ask a simple question. Do you have 76 Barbadians training for these jobs that

these 76 persons are holding? Let any Minister of Government get up and say. This is why when I came here a few weeks ago and asked the question, both Ministers wanted to give me the answer, but I noticed that he was being prompted to give me the answer at the time because it was such an easy question. The Minister got up and gave me the answer as to what steps are taken to see that Barbadians are trained. You have a situation where obviously the past administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs was not ensuring that Government policy was being carried out properly, and that is why I started off by saying that there does not appear to me to be any change in Government policy in the work permit scheme; but the review which the Minister is making is to ensure that Government's policy is effectively carried out.

Let me say this. I support the Government 100 per cent when it comes to making sure that jobs are given to Barbadians. I hold no brief for any foreigners. I believe that West Indian nationals should be placed in an entirely different category, and I have no doubt that the present Minister in the exercise of his discretion will treat West Indian nationals completely different from North Americans. What I say, however, is that you have not made certain that the policy of the Government was being effectively carried out.

The question in 1969 asked about applications. The reply was that before the issue of any such work permits the applicant is required to submit copies of the publication of the advertisement. I am very glad to see that the present Minister spoke something about this, because I remember going to Jamaica in 1970 and coming back and taking up the Advocate newspaper and seeing an application for a job as a manager of a luxury hotel on the West coast at \$600 a month, and two or three days after just by chance I met the ex-Minister of Home Affairs in the Ministry at Bay Street on my way to the legal office, and I mentioned it to him, because to me and to any right thinking person no person who is qualified to manage a hotel is going to apply for a job to manage a luxury hotel at \$600; but when this advertisement is put in the newspaper overseas then you will see what "perks" are added to it and the salary probably comes up to \$2,000 a month all told.

Now, Sir, I feel that the Minister when he is replying should let the House know what steps are being taken to ensure that of the 998 work permits issued to non-Barbadians that there are 998 Barbadians being trained to take over these jobs, because as I understand Government's policy, you only issue work permits for a job if there is no Barbadian qualified and available to do it, and in

addition to that the job is a job which the Barbados Government recognises there is need to have somebody do in Barbados. If you have issued 998 work permits, it means that you recognise that there are 998 jobs in Barbados for which Barbadians are not qualified at the moment. I would like to find out from the Minister what steps will be taken to ensure that when work permits are issued that the persons to whom they are issued are going to train Barbadians to take over these jobs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is all I have to say on this issue.

Mr. BOLDEN and Mr. GREAVES rose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing no other speeches other than that of the Minister of Home Affairs. The hon. member who has just sat gave notice of his intention to speak on this matter as well as the Leader of the Opposition.
7.30 p.m.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, although I do not see much in what has been said about the policy of the Government, I do welcome the opportunity to clear the air once and for all relative to this question of work permits. The comments both in this Hon. Chamber and outside touch on three fundamentals: (1) the sovereignty of Barbados and the Barbadian people, (2) the position of the Cabinet, and (3) the law as it stands.

Now, what is sovereignty? In my opinion sovereignty is the will of the people expressed upon the principle that we are masters of our own destiny subject to no compulsion whatsoever, and I would go on to say that sovereignty is not defined by the size of a country, the number of its people, the economic viability of the country; it is an absolute right which you have or you do not have. At the moment we in Barbados have sovereignty, and our sovereignty is not any less because, in comparison with the United States that country is many times larger than ours. Our sovereignty is not any less in comparison with places like Canada or Australia because their economic viability far exceeds ours, and our sovereignty is not any less when compared with Great Britain though once upon a time Great Britain had an Empire and we never had any nor do we intend to get any. Our sovereignty is absolute, and it seems strange to me that many people in Barbados want to suggest that when people from some of these countries such as Great Britain Canada, the United States, Australia or Europe come into Barbados, and because we are small in their opinion we must abridge our sovereignty to suit the whims and fancies of these people.

I would like to make it quite clear that as long as I am Minister responsible for Home Affairs the rights of Barbadians take precedence at all times, and no foreigner has any right in Barbados except privileges which are given by the Barbadian people and can be abridged, varied or revoked at the will of the Barbadian people, so let us get the issues straight. We are touching on the fundamentals of the sovereignty of Barbados, and I would like Barbadian people to be aware of the fact that I uphold the sovereignty of our people and I have no intention at any time of circumventing or abridging this sovereignty in discharging my responsibility. To those people outside who so far have not got around to the idea that Barbados is now an independent and sovereign country, I would like to suggest to those people that they can do like a former Chief Education Officer who, in 1966, when the advent of Barbados independence drew near said he did not wish to give up his British passport and so left and went to Montserrat. I know there are many people in Barbados today who are still finding it difficult to adjust to this fact that Barbados is now a sovereign and independent country and that as such we are masters of our own destiny subject to no compulsion whatsoever.

When we come to the question of what is the position of the Cabinet, the Barbadian people on 9th September last year gave their decision and the Democratic Labour Party was voted into power and appointed its Cabinet. Even if another Party had been voted into power, the Cabinet would have the authority of this country; the Cabinet runs this country. There are people in Barbados who seem to think otherwise, who seem to think that the Cabinet should consult with them whenever decisions are to be taken. There are people in Barbados who seem to think that when you are going to ask a man to leave this country, regardless of the circumstances requiring such, you should first consult with them and get their views before you decide to do that. We do not run Governments that way.

I should also like to draw to the attention of this Hon. Chamber that with the advent of independence the position of the Cabinet must be clearly understood. There was a time in the Colonial era when the Chief Immigration Officer and many other officers in similar positions of comparable rank held a lot of sway in this country and they ran this country to suit their whims and fancies. Very often they ran the country to suit the directives of the Colonial masters, and many of these officers today have not adjusted to the fact that nowadays we have a Cabinet which runs the country and that this Cabinet is ultimately responsible to the people of Barbados for

everything that occurs in this country, and these people still seem to think that the powers which they had before 1966 should still be allowed to them. I would like to say that the policy of the Government as expressed by the Cabinet and through its various Ministries - and the Ministry of Home Affairs is an arm of the Cabinet - is to make sure at all times that the policy of this Government is brought to bear on whatever the particular officers may like to believe.

In passing I would also like to say that we are aware of the fact that the present Immigration Act is not what it should be and is not befitting an independent country, and it is the intention of the Government, as expressed in the Governor-General's address to these Chambers, that we will bring in an Immigration Act adjusted and suitable to the dignity of an independent country before this year runs to an end.

When you come now to the law as it stands, we are functioning now on the 1952 Immigration Act, and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has made a number of points. I have here before me the debate centred around the Immigration Act in 1952, and it does come as no surprise to me the type of comments which he has made, because from reading these debates it is obvious to me that at that particular time when this Bill was introduced it was introduced to control certain categories of people coming to Barbados, and St. Lucians, the Vincentians and other people. I would like to quote, for example, a few lines from the debate to impress upon you why I have come to this opinion. Dr. Cummins in introducing this stated:

"For some time it has been realised that our laws relating to immigration were, to say the least, lax and indefinite. I am aware that certain hon. members would not like to hear this, but the Government has felt that with our redundant population increasing and with less opportunities day after day for Barbadians to go abroad in quest of employment, which makes it necessary for them to remain within the confines of this small island, it is only wise and necessary that at this stage we should sit up and take notice if we are to feed and house the population adequately.

Therefore we have taken the example from other islands of the Caribbean, we have taken some of the best points from laws relating to immigration such as the laws of Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad. We do not propose to follow Trinidad as far as immigration is concerned, we hope never to become as hysterical as some other places."

I would like to draw to your attention, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that on that occasion in 1952 Trinidad had embarked upon a policy of keeping the Grenadians and other small islanders out of Trinidad. I will now quote from an address given by Mr. Allder to support my contention that when this Bill was introduced in 1952 at the back of the minds of the people then were the St. Lucians, the Vincentians and those types of people. He said:

"If ever there was a time when I should compliment the Government for anything they have done, it is today in respect of this particular Bill. If anyone would care to walk around Bridgetown, not only when the sun is shining but when the hours are dark, one must observe the deplorable conditions which exist in some places that can make no contribution to the cultural and economic stability of the Colony. With the conditions existing in the environments of Nelson Street and similar parts of Bridgetown, with the filth and dirt that one finds there and the conditions existing in these areas, it is not surprising to find half a dozen persons occupying one small building. It has reached such a stage that one can scarcely pass in the streets day or night without being shocked by the revolting conditions there."

The type of discussion which has gone on in this debate in 1952 goes to support the contention I have given that at the back of the minds of the people because they had the St. Lucians, the Vincentians and so on in their minds.

I would also like to say, in supporting some of the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that very often in the past when the Immigration law was being applied it has been applied chiefly to St. Lucians, Vincentians and people of that nature. I have just been reminded that it was made for that purpose so it is not surprising that it was applied in that way. I know that many people felt that the Chief Immigration Officer was doing his duty when he rounded up the people from St. Lucia, St. Vincent and other islands and put them aboard the Federal Palm or the Federal Maple to be returned to their countries. Everybody applauded and said he was doing his duty, but now today when the policy of the Government is being impressed upon the actions of the Chief Immigration Officer to see that the law applies to everyone, we are hearing a howl about Barbados. There was no howl when the St. Lucians, the Vincentians and other people were being rounded up and pushed out, but now that you find a few people of European or Caucasian stock have been pushed out because they have violated the immigration regulations of this country, quite a howl has been kicked up. What type of people are we? Are we going to have one

law or are we going to have the law applied to one set of people and then again do not apply it to another set of people?

I know Barbadian history very well, because this is our tradition. It has always been the tradition in Barbados to apply the law to suit certain people and refuse to apply it when other people are involved. This is a social contention in Barbados today, that we have laws for one type of people and another set of laws for a different type of people.

7.40 p.m.

This type of thing is not suited to the dignity of an Independent country. When we have laws in an Independent country the laws must be applied equally to everybody; rich or poor, high or low, and it is my intention, as Minister of Home Affairs, that the law is going to be applied to everyone. If it were intended in 1953 that the law should be applied to St. Lucians and Vincentians, I would like to say now that it will be applied to everyone. If they are annoyed, then they will have to wait until 1976 and see if Barbadians will give them the opportunity to revoke conditions.

Now, Sir, when you look at the law as it stands, Section 13 of this Act makes it quite clear, and I should like to quote for the benefit of hon. members:

"If an immigrant to whom a permit has been granted under Section 12 fails to leave the Island on or before the expiration of the period for which the permit has been granted he shall unless such period has been extended as provided in subsection (3) of that Section be deemed a prohibited immigrant."

There is no questionnaire of anything but this. If your permit expires today and you are in Barbados tomorrow, then you are a prohibited immigrant. There is nothing wrong with this. This is how the law operates not only in Barbados, but even in a country like the United States that can afford to be magnanimous. We are not in the position of the United States.

I should like to remind hon. members that we have 166 square miles of land with a population of 240,000 people. Our two resources are the people and the land which seems to be getting less and less. We do not have abundant resources like other countries and, therefore, we cannot afford to be as magnanimous as some of these countries that are being quoted here today. We have to protect the rights of Barbadians. If we are going to have an economic expansion in Barbados and we are not going to protect the rights of Barbadians in seeing

that the plums of employment go to Barbadians, then what is the use of our being here as representatives of Barbadians?

A lot has been said about this Act by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am surprised at what he has said because he is a lawyer and I am not. He said a lot about Section 17. Now, Section 17 says:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act the Minister (or in those days the Governor or Immigration Officer) may grant a permit subject to such conditions as may be deemed expedient to a prohibited immigrant to enter and remain in the Island.

Provided that an Immigration Officer shall in granting such permit act subject to and in accordance with the general and special directions of the Minister."

Now, a lot of people have questioned work permits. The Act does not mention anything such as work permits, but the Act mentions that a permit is given under certain conditions. The expression "conditions" in subsection (1) of this Section means:

"Conditions as to duration, place of residence, occupation, or furnishing of security, and includes conditions as to any other matter or thing whether similar or not to matters or things in this subsection specified."

This sums up what obtains in principle.

I believe the term 'work permit' has come into usage in Barbados from the experience in Jamaica. If people are going to question that in the law there is no such thing as a work permit, I should like to draw their attention to Section 17 which tells you quite clearly that when a permit is issued you can lay down certain conditions to the granting of the permit, and that is what Government has been doing.

With regard to the question of foreigners coming into Barbados, it goes a lot further than just sovereignty, the position of the Cabinet, and the law as it stands. When we look at the social and economic conditions of Barbados, there is a lot more that comes out of it. We are, at the moment, in the Ministry of Home Affairs concerned with the social and economic importance of work permits. Maybe that is why we are now realising that we will have to be more critical in assessing these requests for work permits in this country.

Now, Sir, if you take the hotel industry as it stands, there are 50 people employed in the hotel industry whose total emoluments in one year come to \$564,464, and we have verified that the figures given here are not correct. To give you an example of why we had to verify this. How can anyone imagine that a manager at a hotel such as Coconut Court will come here and work for \$400 a month? How are we going to believe that a manager at Miramar is going to work for \$600 a month? We have not accepted it, and we have checked and found out that there is a lot more attached to it. Even accepting the figures as they are, I can say that 50 people are earning \$565,464 a year, and when you add to this the various "perks" such as housing, a car, travelling allowance, entertainment allowance, food and so on, you will find that you have close to \$1 million controlled or being earned by 50 people in the hotel industry. This is as it stands and we are not now really concerned with the true facts of the case. We are taking the figures as they give them. When you look at the building industry in Barbados you will find that 53 people in the building industry are earning a total salary in one year of \$1,200,000. Is it surprising then that foreigners are going to be annoyed if restrictions are tightened up? Is it surprising if foreigners are going to be annoyed if we are going to be more critical in analysing their work permits? They are enjoying something good and they do not want to give it up.

When you look around in Barbados and you find that we are producing qualified people in this country — maybe not at a fast enough rate, but we are producing some, either by Government grants or grants by other organisations in Barbados, or by the people themselves going overseas, saving money and studying. Many of the Barbadians overseas are looking forward to returning to this country, and they want to know that when they return with suitable qualifications they will be given proper jobs. They do not want to return here and start down the line getting little or nothing. We cannot afford to sit by and allow this state of affairs to continue. We have to take a very serious look at this matter. I have given you an example of two industries: the hotel industry and the building industry. We are still in the midst of processing other aspects of the industry or the employment field in Barbados, and we will be able to tell the Cabinet very soon from now what is the true position of the returns of earnings of the people in these categories.

I should like to say, Sir, that when we issue a permit we lay down conditions, and one of the conditions is that you select a Barbadian and train him. There have been a lot of problems in this matter. We know that when you start something

for the first time very often you do not have enough information to be as strict and demanding as you would like to be, but given time you will gather this information. Now the Ministry of Home Affairs is in a position, as a result of experience during the past years, to be able to make a better assessment of what is going on in the industries: the hotel and any other industries in Barbados. I have no doubt whatsoever that if my colleague was still the Minister of Home Affairs he would have been as strict as I am because he would have had this information at his disposal. The fact that I appear to be stricter is absolutely no reflection on the performance of the former Minister.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Minister has gone so far on the point of strictness that I did not get the chance to interrupt him. Would he like to tell me whether in giving work permits to doctors, architects, dentists and cane-cutters — the four categories that I mentioned — he tells them that they must train Barbadians, too? I would like to know how any of those people could train Barbadians.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has made his address. (*Asides.*) I can also speak again under Standing Order 27(2), because if you introduce any matter that is critical of the Government, I can have the last say. If the hon. member will sit and be prepared to listen I will get to his point. If at the end of my address I have not covered his points, he can remind me of them and I am prepared to cover them for him.

7.50 p.m.

I do not see the need for you to jump to your feet and interrupt me unnecessarily. I would have to ask you where your good manners are.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Minister is going so fast you cannot understand what he is saying. I thought that by interrupting him I might make him think and slow down a little bit so that we might hear on this side.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: If you wanted me to speak slowly you could ask me, and if you cannot hear what I am saying, it is not my fault. You should be consulting the E.N.T. surgeon. (Mr. ADAMS: But you just need a voice consultant.)

As I was saying, Sir, we have laid down the conditions of training, but we have been having problems in training because we find that people try to hoodwink and try to get around training Barbadians although this is a condition laid down

to the granting of a permit. They select a man who from the beginning would never benefit from the training and at the end of the period granted they come and say they have not benefited from the training and please extend, or even in those cases where they do select somebody who has the ability to benefit you find constant harassment so that every three months they are recruiting somebody new; so again at the end of two or three years you are back to the same problem, you have successfully trained a Barbadian, and therefore you must give an extension to these people.

Now, I do not think this is fair. We cannot afford to sit down or stand by and allow this type of thing to continue all the time. We must be able to tell these people that they are carrying out Government's policy, if anything you are flouting the Government's policy and therefore we would have to ask you to leave the country. We do not mind if the company recruits a new person, but this particular person must be asked to leave the country because this is the Government's policy. If we do not do that we are going to find that this goes on continually, you flout directives, you do not train people and you are constantly extending a work permit for a particular individual right up to the stage where after seven years a man can apply for citizenship, he is granted, and then automatically he tells you that the conditions cannot apply to him because he is a Barbadian citizen and we cannot ask him to train anybody. We would be defeating the very policy of Government which we have laid down if we sat by and allowed this state of affairs to continue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are having problems in Barbados especially in the hotel industry and I would like to say openly that most of the problems we have in the Ministry centre around the hotel industry. There have been complaints of discrimination by foreigners and there have been complaints of discrimination by Barbadians also in regard to certain hotels, and we find that this policy of discrimination very often carried out by coloured Barbadians is due to the attitude of managers or people at the top in some of these hotels. We cannot afford to sit idly by and allow foreigners to come into this country and indulge in practices which are going to put the minority section of Barbadians at a disadvantage. We are aware of instances where, for example, at the Hilton Hotel the chef kicked one of the workers; we have had an instance at Sam Lord's Hotel where a German assaulted a Barbadian and then ran her all around the place with a knife. I do not want to recount all the instances we have had; but we have at Sunset Crest an instance where a man stands at the gateway and as people leave to go home he stops them and searches all their belongings, pushes

his hands even in the pig food imputing that they are carrying away the club's property, and wants to beat people because he is hale and strong and believes he can beat any and everybody in this country. This is the type of thing we cannot sit down in the Ministry of Home Affairs and tolerate, because if we allow this type of thing to go on unimpeded, it will spread and then the white people in Barbados who are also Barbadian citizens, and are also entitled to protection from the Ministry of Home Affairs, will be left to face the issue because an expatriate can very well pick up what he has and leave. When a crisis comes out of his bad relationship with the Barbadian worker, the expatriate can leave and when he leaves the white Barbadian is going to have to face or pay for all his bad actions. We cannot allow this type of thing to occur.

Certain similar cases which we have had in recent times are due to the fact that many of these people were behaving in such a manner and the Ministry was left with no other alternative but to ask them to leave the country. I do not think that anybody in Barbados who is mindful of the fact that we have had no racial disturbance in this country, no matter that race relations may not be ideal and that there is room for improvement, would sit down here and allow a group of people to have no allegiance to Barbados, who may be using Barbadian citizenship as an opportunity to feather their nest, to come in here and create undesirable or inharmonious racial relations, and then due to the fact that they can pack up and leave, leave behind the white people of Barbados to face the issue. I do not think any sane person either on this side or on the opposing side would sit down and say we should allow this sort of thing to go on; and if we did allow it to go on, I believe we would be criticised for it.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, is the Minister saying categorically that he believes that the foreign whites who come here are more disharmonious to the coloured people than the white people of Barbados are?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I have not said that. I said that in some of the cases where people have been asked to leave this country, the factor causing this request was due to the fact that the relationship with Barbadians was far from satisfactory. I would like you to bear that in mind.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, before the Minister moves on from the hotel industry, I would be grateful if he would tell us what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the Government's policy is carried out as regards the conditions laid down in the issuing of work permits.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Now, Sir, to go a step further, when we are looking at the economic importance of work permits, another thing we have to bear in mind is that a lot of foreigners come into this country and because of the peculiar set up in the Barbadian society, you find that these people can move into a Bank and get money very easily, and I would have to say here and now that unfortunately some of the banks in Barbados have a very distinct anti-national attitude in their banking policy. A man comes into this country and is given a permit for two or three years. At no time is he promised that at the expiration of that period he is going to be given an extension, but in that short period of two years that man sits around and due to this type of anti-national banking policy where he can go and get money much more readily than a native Barbadian, he is able to buy property, shares in businesses or start other businesses, and then at the end of two years he comes and tells you he owns X properties, he has shares here and he has this business, and therefore you must allow him to stay. This is very disheartening to Barbadians because here in Barbados you have a lot of Barbadians who go to banks and find that if they want money they are really put through the wringer before the money is given to them, and very often they are not given the quantity of money they ask for. But the banking policy here in Barbados accommodates a lot of foreigners, and many foreigners know this and they come to this country and take advantage of the situation. I do not believe that for one moment this is fair to Barbadians, and with the advent of the Central Bank we are going to see a reversal of this anti-national policy adopted by some of these banks.

I want to draw to the attention of hon. members that foreigners come into this country knowing that they are going to be here for a limited time, but that does not deter them; they set about to lay down roots, and then at the end of two or three years they come and tell you that they cannot pull up their roots and leave, and if you ask them to do that they tell you that you are inhuman, you are this, you are that. Look at the United States. When you violate the regulations of the United States they grab you and hold you in gaol until they can send you back down here, and if anybody in this Chamber would consult with the former Consul-General in the United States he would be able to give instances of how many Barbadians on whose behalf he has had to intercede, were grabbed by the United States emigration people and deported immediately. Right now Canada is introducing new legislation because they have found that people come to Canada as visitors with the intention of staying on, and rather than applying for a visa in their own

country where if it was refused they would have no right of appeal, they go into Canada as visitors set to stay on and then when they are asked to leave, they appeal and the appeal may take eight years before it is heard. Canada is now in the process of adjusting the emigration laws to combat this. What are we to do? That is a country that can afford to be magnanimous.

8.00 p.m.

We cannot afford to be as generous as Canada, we do not have the resources, so how are we going to stand by here and listen to this type of anti-national comment and anti-national criticism? I am not against criticism, criticism is all right but there is a limit and there is a borderline at which criticism is likely to be bordering on the treasonable.

When we think in terms of the Evangelists who come into this country, they have never had any right since 1917 to come into this country. Under the Foreign Missionaries Act of 1917, which was abolished in 1966 because the provisions were brought under the Immigration Act, they never had any right to come into this country, they had to apply for permits and if they came into this country and set about their business without permits they could have been fined £500 or put in gaol for one year. If it was not applied it is not due to the present Government, it was due to the fact that in those days these things were left in the hands of the Chief Immigration Officer. We know very well the attitude of certain people in Barbados. There are people in Barbados who are very critical of the local Barbadian or the coloured West Indian, but when they are confronted with people of a different pigmentation, especially if they are of a paler shade of pink, they cower, they are not prepared to take action, and if the Foreign Missionaries Act was not applied in the past and these people were allowed to come into this country, it was not because there was no Act, the Act was there since 1917, it was not applied because of the whims and fancies of the Chief Immigration Officer. If it is being applied now it is being applied because the present Minister is of the opinion that the law should be applied equally to all and sundry, high or low, rich or poor, and we are very critical of people coming into this country under that pretext, because Barbados is not darkest China or darkest Africa where you have to go and save the natives from themselves. We are educated people, we are civilised, we have adjusted, worthwhile norms of behaviour. How then can we sit by and allow people to come in here and say they are going to save our souls, and every year they come to save our souls?

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I am glad that the Hon. Minister has

dealt with the question of the Evangelists. I wonder if the Minister would explain during the course of his address why Mr. Cerullo is still operating and has been operating in Queen's Park up to Sunday night, and what is his reaction in relation to the big campaign which is scheduled for May. I have written my letter to the *Advocate* for Sunday — Mr. Deputy Speaker says I have no right to talk — but I would really like to hear this, because I can supply him with a number of documents which have been forwarded to me since my letter appeared in the Press exposing the financial set-up and the hypocrisy with which this money is taken out of this country. I am not going to accuse anybody, but it includes a top civil servant working in the Ministry of Finance, and I would like the Minister to look into this carefully because I can give him all the details on this.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I would like to assure the hon. member that the Ministry of Home Affairs is well aware of the problem, but as he would know and suspect, there are a lot of things the Ministry of Home Affairs cannot do on its own, it has to get the support and co-operation of other Ministries. When we come across certain information we will have to refer it to other Ministries for them to take the necessary action.

Getting back to the question, these people never had any right since 1917 to come into this country. If it was not applied between 1917 and 1971 I am not responsible. I have no grouse with that, there might have been extenuating circumstances and conditions or there might have been a lot of excuses, but the point I want to make here and now is that I am going to see that it is applied. The people have to apply for permits, we will analyse them and we will assess whether or not there is a need for this type of person to come into the country, and depending on our findings we will make a decision. It seems to me it is being suggested that the new Minister is operating on some new law which was never passed by this Hon. Chamber, but I am just trying to make sure that the law applies to everyone.

In the meantime, while we are assessing these Evangelists, we have reached a policy decision that the present requests which came in before we had reached this stage of evaluating their roles and positions and the various things they do, we have reached a decision in the Ministry, for those requests which come in before this stage, that these people be permitted with certain conditions to operate, and these are the conditions attached:

That they have a local finance committee;
That they issue receipts for all money received, big or small amounts;
That they keep books;

That they get their books audited by a registered Accountant of high standing in Barbados; and at the end they publish a statement in the daily newspaper.

These are the conditions which we have laid down to those people whom we have decided to admit for the time being until we have evaluated the role, the position and the activities of the foreign missionaries in Barbados.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, how then does the Minister square the refusal to allow the Rev. Mr. Bain to stay in Barbados with this general permission that he has just said is the policy of the Ministry for processing applications which were made a certain time ago?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: For the benefit of the hon. member, Rev. Bain's case is an entirely different case, I would not like you to bring it in here. I would like to tell you that the decision not to extend Rev. Bain's permit was made when he applied on the last occasion; he was told in advance that there would be no extension.

Mr. ADAMS: What about Mr. Coward?

Dr. Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Perhaps in his case he was also told that there would be no extension, but I will look into it. (Mr. ADAMS: Why?) There was no longer any need for his usefulness, we had a policy.

When you come down to the question of the policy as it stands, I would like to read here from the notes which we have in the Ministry, and I do not want you to feel for one moment that these have anything to do with me, these are what I found when I went there. I think by reading some of these things to you they will explain how the Government operates.

The general policy regarding the determination of applications for residence and work permits was embodied in the Immigration Act of 1952 (1952-26) and administrative directives issued from time to time. Many of these directives have the origin in a rationalisation of individual applications which were of such a nature as to underline the need for a clear definition of policy.

Persons of immigration status other than citizens of Barbados are granted resident status on the basis of policy set out. One important element of the Ministry's policy lies in the fact that opportunities should be created for nationals to occupy top posts in all areas of employment. In order to achieve this, emphasis has been placed on the need for local and/or overseas training, particularly at middle and top management levels.

It is considered that the establishment of appropriate training facilities should have the effect of reducing and ultimately eliminating the need for issuing work permits. It is therefore prescribed that in applications for work permits mention should be made of —

- (i) the availability of training in the particular areas; and
- (ii) efforts being made to select nationals for such training.

Priority is given to applications from other Government Departments through the Chief Personnel Officer and from Ministries on behalf of the Departments under their control in respect of technical and professional staff, provided that the information provided with such applications satisfies minimum requirements for processing. There are numerous exemptions in this respect.

The acceptance and processing of applications for permission to reside and to work are presently based on the following procedure:

Applications should be made to the Chief Immigration Officer at least three months in advance in respect of new applicants, and at least one month in cases of renewal permits;

A fee of \$10 is payable to the Accountant General in respect of each application to reside or to reside and work.

8.10 p.m.

"In cases of applications being made by persons residing overseas at time of application, a postal or money order to the value of \$10 (E.C.) is required in favour of the Accountant General. Evidence indicating that the job in question has been advertised in at least three issues of the daily newspaper is required. Each advertisement should include:

- (a) The name of the organisation to which persons are recruited.
 - (b) The requisite qualifications academic and otherwise.
 - (c) An adequate job description.
 - (d) The salary range.
4. Where the name of the prospective employee is known, a certificate of character from the Police Department in the country of residence and medical certificate of health must be supplied.
 5. Applications from potential investors should clearly indicate

satisfactory evidence of financial standing; reference to the field of investment; Scope of investment and evidence of capital outlay and employment potential.

6. Reference must be made where possible to the existing training facilities and/or efforts made to select Nationals for training.

7. In order to create an awareness of all job opportunities in technical and managerial fields, publicity is required to be given through Barbados Missions in countries in which such Missions exist.

8. Work permits are issued to employers and not individual employees generally. In the circumstances, it is imperative that the Ministry be notified of the termination of the employment of any such employee.

9. Any appeal for reconsideration after permission is not granted should be accompanied by the receipt from the Accountant General certifying payment of the \$10 fee.

In the criteria for determining applications the following guidelines are observed:

Work permits for indefinite periods or indefinite duration are not granted.

Close consultation between the Ministries and other agencies and Government Departments. In a case relating to employment in industry prior consultation with the Industrial Development Corporation is made.

Adequacy of financial resources of an applicant for particular investment and/or self-support.

Character of applicant should not be questionable where it is considered that the special skill of a person is indispensable to the development and/or improvement of employment of the Island.

10. No consideration is given to applications in the following categories:

Receptionists, Secretaries, Domestic, Artisans, Craftsmen, Clerical Workers, Salesmen and Unskilled Workers, except in special circumstances to be determined on merit.

Exemptions From Work Permit

At present work permits are not required from personnel of the

undermentioned organisations and agencies:

University of the West Indies.

The World Health Organisation and U.N. Agencies.

Harp.

Peace Corps Volunteers.

V.S.O.

Canadian Technical Aid.

Diplomatic Missions.

Multi-racial Centre.

Caribbean Meteorological Institute.

British Development Division.

Codrington College Students.

Government Advisers.

Business Secretarial School students for a period not exceeding six months on condition that they do not engage in gainful employment.

Re-registration House Officers interned for a period of one year.

Notwithstanding the above exemptions, it is however necessary for the various organisations and agencies to submit to the Immigration Department details as to the number and identity of all such persons entering the Island.

Part-time and Conditional Employment

Students from Eastern Caribbean Territories attending U.W.I. Cave Hill Campus, may obtain employment on a part-time basis without work permits.

The wives of West Indian Students attending the U.W.I., Cave Hill, or those of C.M.I. personnel are permitted to accept employment during any period that their husbands are on attachment to either of the above institutions.

The Ministry from time to time has been permitting entry of persons from various organisations and agencies for training purposes particularly on exchange training programmes and on a reciprocal basis.

In so far as training of Overseas personnel at Nursing Schools in Barbados is concerned, it has been clearly defined as a matter of policy that satisfactory arrangements must be made for the maintenance of the trainees during their stay in Barbados. The Ministry should be supplied with the names and

addresses of all trainees through the Chief Immigration Officer on the appropriate Immigration Report Form.

Applicants whose stay will be dependent on their husbands should be informed that their period of residence will be calculated on the basis of their husbands' residence and not on their request for training or for extended periods.

Under the Immigration Act, 1952, provision has been made for the payment of a fee of \$10 on application for the grant or extension of a permit to reside or to reside and work. There will be no waiver in this case in respect of the United Kingdom Nationals.

A visitor is allowed entry for a period of 6 months in the first instance subject to -

- (a) The possession of a valid passport or some document which satisfactorily establishes nationality and identity.
- (b) Proof of being free from communicable disease.

The possession of a valid return ticket to his or her homeland.

Satisfying the Chief Immigration Officer that he or she is not likely to become a public charge.

Where visitors to the Island apply for extension of their stay, emphasis is placed on the fact that accepting any form of employment without prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs is a breach of policy.

In order to ensure strict observance of the above, the Chief Immigration Officer is required to make regular checks on persons who have been granted temporary permits and to submit information on their date of entry and status on entry.

In order to restrict illegal residence and work, Government policy is declared as hereunder:

No craftsman, artisan or other workers will be allowed to enter the Island to work unless they have previously applied for and obtained a work permit.

No employer shall offer any employment to any non-Barbadian and employ any such person unless that person has obtained a work permit.

No visitor to the Island will be allowed to work or accept employment unless he or she has obtained a work permit.

Work permits will not be granted for artisans, craftsmen, domestic workers, clerical workers, salesmen, unskilled workers, except in special circumstances in each category in each case.

The following conditions apply to applications in respect of foreign entertainers to perform in this Island:

Application should be made at least two weeks prior to the date on which it is proposed to commence advertisement of the performance.

No performance should be advertised or tickets put on sale before prior approval of the grant of permission, and where tickets are put on sale the advertisements offering tickets for sale should indicate that permission has been granted to stage the performance. If a foreign promoter is sponsoring the show, he must be associated with a local agent.

If it is a company or a business it must be registered under the appropriate local legislation. Except in special circumstances permission will only be granted on condition that local artistes are also engaged to appear in the same programme.

Notwithstanding the above conditions, classical performers may be exempted from the above formal application, provided that no security risks are involved.

Conditions In Relation to Property Owners, Partnership Investment

It is noted that the ownership of property or partnership investment does not confer any right to residence. Partnership in a local business, the possession

of shares and the ownership of a property in Barbados do not by themselves confer any right to permanent residence.

For the purposes of good relations and in the interest of the general image of the Ministry, it has been emphasised that replies should be worded -

The application has been approved, or the application has not been approved. The phrase "has been reviewed" has been dropped with all its unsavoury connotations.

It has further been decided that care must always be exercised to ensure that only the decision "not approved" or "approved" as the case may be is communicated to the applicant, and that the decision is accurately read and dispatched. More information than is necessary might not be given without prior approval. In order that the Chief Immigration Officer and applicants may be aware of the full decisions on applications, it has been directed that it is very important that the appropriate decisions be conveyed, and care should be taken to ensure that it is done adequately."

In the present circumstances, I can hardly do other than approve an extension of two years. Where an application has not been approved the applicant is allowed one appeal on the basis of new facts which may have been omitted or overlooked in making the earlier application.

After an application that is not approved is reviewed without modification of the earlier decision, I am not prepared to consider the application further unless under very special circumstances.

The question of the admission of non-Nationals to Government Primary and Secondary Schools was raised some time ago with the Ministry of Education, and it has been cleared with the Ministry of Education as regards the policy to be adopted.

When we come down to the husbands of Nationals, and I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition may be interested in this, the marriage

non-Nationals to Barbadian women should not *per se* confer on such husbands the right of residence. 8.20 p.m.

As a matter of policy in normal circumstances, the Minister grants residence and work permits on the basis of reciprocity, that is, where other countries grant such permits to Barbadian husbands who are citizens of Barbados or nationals of those countries, then the Ministry should grant similar permission to non-Barbadian husbands of women who are citizens of Barbados. It is considered however that some policy should be formulated to which certain criteria for determining cases within this category may be found since the present *ad hoc* system of processing does not adhere to any set principle.

In 1968 a system was introduced whereby information relating to the granting of work permits could.....

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I really must interrupt the Minister. Is he reading a paper which in due course, since he is reading it to the House, he will have to lay before the House as a document, or is he reading his speech? Because I am sure there is nothing in the directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs that mentions the Leader of the Opposition. I don't want to be difficult, but I am sure the Minister is sufficiently aware to know that if he reads State papers to the House, so to speak, they have to be laid as documents. Anyhow he said he is not reading a speech. If it is a document he is reading out for the House, it will have to be laid as a document of the House. Even the Minister of Agriculture's overdraft had to be laid before the House as a document of the House, and that was his personal property.

Dr. the Hon., R. B. CADDLE: I have been reading from the files for your information. I have no intention of reading my speeches. I think if you are afraid of me, I do not have any need to read my speeches; but you have raised a number of points and I want to be certain that I have answered them; that's all.

Now as regards the question of doctors in this country, as every hon. member here would be aware, there are certain areas where training would take a very long time, and you would have to go necessarily to a College or University. In these areas our policy is quite flexible? but when it comes to the question of doctors, there are 130 doctors in Barbados, and in discussing this policy relative to doctors, we have had the advice of the Chief Medical Officer which was given long ago, long before I got there. There is no point in going back to look for it, but he has stated that there are

enough general practitioners in Barbados. The need for doctors in Barbados is in the specialist field.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of explanation, I said in my speech that the Chief Medical Officer was said to have said that. I was not revealing any confidences. All I can say is that I understand the Chief Medical Officer said that he is quoted out of context, that he has never said there are enough doctors in Barbados. I offer this to the Minister not to contradict him, not to quarrel with him, but to give him something to carry back to the Chief Medical Officer and get an up-to-date assessment to put on the file.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: For your benefit I would like to say that on 3rd March, 1971, the Chief Medical Officer in reply to query as to need for medical practitioners stated at paragraph 19 of 4084/6/13 that there was no need at present for more general practitioners in the country.

We contend that there is a need for more specialists in Barbados. We also are aware of the fact that in certain areas, and this is our policy, we accommodate certain people, and we said specialists in medicine and surgery, and architects. We accommodate these because we realise that these are long courses, a lot of expenditure is involved in training these people, and I do not see any problem there at all because we have had no problem in this field. Where we have been having our problems is where we find that where the Barbadian can be trained on the job, he has not been trained and all types of excuses have been made. We have also found that visitors have come into Barbados, that is, people who come into this country primarily as visitors, and over-stayed and then the next you know is that they are working in this country. There is a section in this very Act which states that if a person can manage to remain in Barbados two years after expiry of his valid permit, you cannot get him out. That is the position. People who come in here are looking for jobs because there are a lot of jobs in Barbados which are not being advertised, and the Barbadian never gets to know about these jobs, yet when foreigners come into Barbados you find they can very easily get jobs.

Another thing which we are concerned about is people coming in here to work with one company and then moving off not necessarily because they disagree with the company that brought them in, but because of more lucrative employment being offered by another company. For example, we have had a case of somebody coming in here to work with Woolworth's and next thing he is working at DaCosta's.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I didn't mention that because I thought another hon. member on my side was going to speak. If you have mentioned that case, if there is a man that cries out to be removed from Barbados, it is that man. I did not want to come in here and pillory anybody, but if you can send out Price and Carruthers, why can't you send out him? I don't know the man at all; I would not know him if I saw him in the street tomorrow, but he not only works at DaCosta's but carries on retail boutiques of his own. Why not send him out? That is sheer favouritism. And what he has said for the reason he is not sent out shows no particular credit upon the Ministry and certain personnel.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: There is no favouritism here, my friend. We deal with files as they come up; we do not go searching out people and calling them in to revoke the work permit. When the permit has expired and they make a new application, then we reassess, and that is how people are going out. We do not go hounding people down and say we revoke your work permit, so get out, because we may be aware of the fact that certain people are here who should not be here. They have been given a permit for a certain time in this country and it is allowed to run its course, but a decision will be made when it has run its course and they are seeking an extension. So do not get the idea that because certain people have not been asked to leave this country, and I do agree with you that there are some who should be asked, that they will remain all the time. But if we did that you will say we are acting with spite and there would be criticism against the Ministry; so we have to allow the permit to run its course and make our decision when an application is made for an extension or renewal. That is all I want to say; there is no favouritism whatsoever. I want to make it quite clear that as long as I am Minister responsible for Home Affairs, the law is going to apply to everyone.

We are well aware of problems confronting the Government as regards the present Immigration Act, and it is the intention of this Ministry to have a new Immigration Act which would eliminate a lot of these problems in the very near future. We are going to see to that because right now there are a lot of lacunae in the present Immigration Act and there are some clever people who are trying to get around this. I would like to make it quite clear that where I am concerned, contrary to a lot of the comments which are being made, there has been no change in policy. What may be true is that we have brought it to the attention of the Chief Immigration Officer that this is the Act, and for my advice I consult the Hon. Attorney General on all matters pertaining to the immigration laws of

this country. I get my advice from him and then it is passed on to the immigration officers to ensure that they have a legal basis for their actions, and also that the Government's policy as enunciated is carried out at all times. We are well aware that the human element comes into consideration, and I am aware of the fact too that many foreigners come into this country and in a very short space of time get to know who are the important people, and this is quite easy with the help of Barbadians. They fete them, they play up to them, and then the next thing you know is that they can take Barbados home in their pockets. I am well aware of that, and this is a price that we very often have to pay if we are going to sit back and allow individuals to have a free hand in deciding everything, because very often they are not going to decide things on the basis of merits or demerits, but on the question of personal relationship with people which may come into play, and if that is allowed to come into play, you are going to find that there is favouritism or undue hardship provoked on some other people who may not be in a position to make themselves friendly with these officers.

8.30 p.m.

I am very glad for the opportunity to let hon. members know where the Ministry stands at the moment, and I would like to reiterate that we are concerned with what is going on in the country, the violation of the Immigration Act and so on. For example, we have the hippies who come into this country; they come in and they create a lot of trouble in St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew and we cannot turn a blind eye to that. That is the position, we are concerned with people who come in as visitors and then overstay, maybe it is due to not enough Immigration Officers and many other factors related to that. They are not caught up with and they overstay in Barbados two years or maybe longer and then you cannot get them out. There has been a lot of concern in Barbados, some Barbadians themselves have gone around telling foreigners that the work permit system has changed and they cannot get permits therefore they should not invest in this country. I would like to make it quite clear that that is not so.

Mr. HINDS: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are in the case of Ministers of Religion some of them who come here from overseas, they receive no money whatsoever by way of salary or even from collection at the Churches, they are supported by their overseas organisations, their salaries come from overseas, what is the attitude of Government towards those people?

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Every application for a permit in this country is dealt

with on merit. They have to make out a case for the granting of a permit; if they fail to they do not get it. They must make their case, we do not give any blanket approval, they must apply and they must make out a case.

Mr. HINDS: I know of a case where the people conduct a Sunday School and train children; they do a lot of social work and receive no money locally. If they leave there is no Barbadian who is going to take their place because there is no local collection to support them and no overseas organisation is going to support the Barbadian.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: What I said before still stands. Each case is dealt with on its merits and if they fail to put the case then do not blame us for not giving them the work permit. What I was saying before the hon. member interjected was that the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs, contrary to what is being rumoured about the place, has no effect on investors in this country. We consult with the Industrial Development Corporation, we consult the Employers' Confederation, the Chamber of Commerce and other places whenever issues of this nature turn up and we take their advice. What we are aware of is that some people who dislike the present Party in power have been using this opportunity to discredit the Party in power. We are not bothered about it, in fact we know that even people who claim to be intelligent — some lawyers and some solicitors — have been telling would-be investors not to come in because they cannot get work permits. We are aware of this.

Mr. ADAMS: On a point of order, the Minister says they are aware of this, I did not mention it in my speech, just let me confirm that. That is a question outside the Minister's possibility of reply, but I can give the Minister and hon. members an assurance that at a party given in British official circles I heard an official — I have no intention of exposing the names — I heard an official telling somebody that, that he would not advise him to invest any money here because there is a thing on against foreigners now. I heard that with these two ears at an hotel in this island, and these are persons in official circles, so he can believe if he has heard that from one source that he has it authenticated now from another.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: Thank you very much for your information, but I am saying here again that the policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs is not intended to discourage investors, and we go through the Industrial Development Corporation and other allied bodies on all matters of investment and we go by their advice. Therefore

I would strongly advise that any investor who has been given any doubt about anything which the Ministry is doing can readily and easily clarify it with anyone of the Associations which I have mentioned or by coming directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

I will have to say again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the Hon. Leader of the Opposition for raising the issue whereby I could give some light on what is going on in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

If I have not answered or satisfied him on all the points I look forward in the near future to doing so.

The question that the House do now adjourn until 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th March, 1972 was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

8.38 p.m.