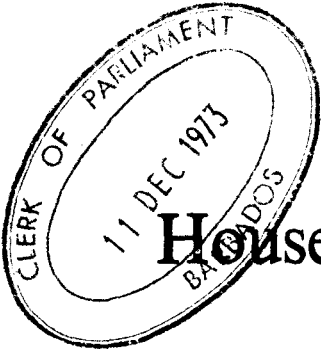




THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST SESSION OF 1971-76

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8th February, 1972.

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

PRESENT

His Honour N. G. A. MAXWELL, LL.B., (Speaker); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (leader of the House); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Health and Welfare); Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE, J.P., (Chairman of Committees); Mr. W. C. B. HINDS; Hon. F. G. SMITH, Q.C., S.C. B.A., (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. P. G. MORGAN, C.B.E., (Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations); 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) and Mr. E. E. GREAVES, B.A., Ed.M.

Prayers were read.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the business of the House begins, I should like to formally welcome back the Clerk of the House. As you know, he has been on a three-month attachment course in the United Kingdom which I am sure he found stimulating and refreshing.

There are no Minutes ready for confirmation.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I beg to lay the following;

The Income Tax (Technical Assistance Officers and Employees) (Designation) Regulations, 1971.

The Customs Duties (Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home) Order, 1971.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to lay the following:

The Local Government (Pensions) (Amendment) Regulations, 1972.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1972.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance I beg to lay the following:

The fourteenth Annual Report of the Housing Authority for the year 1st April 1969 to 31st March, 1970.

Annual Report of the Parks and Beaches Commission, and Income and Expenditure Account, for the period 1st May, 1970 to 31st March, 1971.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay the Twentieth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Natural Gas Corporation for the period 1st April 1970 to 31st March 1971.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the Chamber and took his seat.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Housing, Lands, Labour and National Insurance, I beg to give notice of a

Resolution to approve the Lease to Motor Services Limited of land off Fontabelle Road in the City.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1972.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$50,000 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. 27, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$2,745 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72 Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 28, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,855 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 30, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to grant the sum of \$1,450 out of the Consolidated Fund and to place it at the disposal of Government to supplement the Estimates 1971-72 Part 1 Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1971-72 No. 29, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

1. How many work permits have been issued from the inception of the scheme until the 31st December 1971?
2. Would the Minister state (a) the categories of work in respect of which work permits were issued?
(b) the number of work permits issued in respect of each category of work?

3. Would the Minister state what steps were taken by 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 jobs on the expiration of work permits issued to such employers?
4. Would the Minister state what steps would be taken in future to ensure that Barbadian Nationals be trained to take over at the expiration of any new work permit issued?

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the Standing Orders of the House Question Time should now begin; failing that, we should now proceed with Private Members' Business.

2.40 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, I have not heard any announcement from you regarding the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no Minutes ready for circulation at the moment. I am informed that the Minutes will be ready for circulation at the next sitting of the House.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE ST. NICHOLAS PLANTATION

Mr. SPEAKER: The first item under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. member for St. Peter, and it is to move the passing of a Resolution urging upon Government to initiate negotiations with the local attorneys with a view to acquiring St. Nicholas Plantation to provide a Safari Park and other amenities.

Mr. FORDE entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to invite Government to extend its programme of building a new Jerusalem not only at Cave Hill, St. Michael, but farther north touching St. Nicholas Plantation in the parish of St. Peter. St. Nicholas Plantation is one of those estates that have been the subject of what has been known as absentee proprietorship for very many years, and I think it is very well known, it is recorded time and again and in numerous places, it has now become history that such a situation tended to alienate income earned in Barbados, because the money had to go abroad to the absentee proprietors.

Mr. BOLDEN entered the Chamber and took his seat.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, one very well knows that such an operation has in itself deprived the entire Caribbean area - not only Barbados in this respect - of much needed development. We are hoping that we might find it possible in a Resolution such as this to urge Government to initiate negotiations with the local attorneys with a view to acquiring St. Nicholas Plantation. Now, St. Nicholas Plantation is comprised of some 220 acres of land. It is situated at a point where it offers every opportunity for the establishment of a Cultural Centre particularly for the northern parishes. If we would look at it we would find that we have the windward parishes boasting of the King George Memorial Park and what it has to offer. We also have Queen's Park, Hastings Rocks and the Bay Street Esplanade catering in some measure to another section of the community, if we were to look at it in that light. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "What about Farley Hill?"

Mr. SPEAKER: Members who are not speaking, please observe the Standing Orders!

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, we are glad to hear that Farley Hill is there. Farley Hill has not yet proven itself, and we have not yet seen any indication whatsoever that it will in the very near future provide any of the immediate benefits that the community is at present crying out for at St. Nicholas and particularly St. Nicholas Abbey can provide, if the Government can be persuaded to acquire this estate. We have no doubt in our minds that a wonderful opportunity is available to the Government to do something for the benefit of the people of the northern parishes. When we look at the schools immediately adjoining the area and not so far away from St. Nicholas Plantation, we find that they have no playing fields whatsoever.

Now, the Resolution speaks of inviting the Government to establish a Safari Park and other amenities.

2.50 p.m.

Now Barbados is known to offer very limited opportunity for hunting. (*Asides*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Please ignore the asides. Members not on their feet, please observe the Standing Orders.

Mr. HINDS: What we are saying is this: St. Nicholas Plantation located as it is, offers a feasible exercise for the training of our youth. We have no wild animals, but surely St. Nicholas Plantation provides an opportunity for establishing a zoo. You will find, Sir, that there are numerous trees growing on the lands at St. Nicholas Plantation. There are numerous boys and girls in this Island

who have pen pals abroad. We have scouts and guides and you will be surprised to know that in the exchange of correspondence our boys and girls know nothing of the botanical names of the plants and shrubs that grow. In other words, we have got to say that they know little or nothing of the fauna and flora of their country.

We feel on this side of the House that a plantation such as St. Nicholas provides Government with a nucleus for setting up a training scheme where our children can make a study of horticulture, and where they can do lots of things to improve their own future existence. There are a number of tenants who have been located on the very plantation, some of them for quite a number of years before you and I were born. We have every reason to believe on this side of the House that some people on the other side of the House may soon be giving these tenants notice to quit. We have to act, Mr. Speaker. We are inviting Government to consider this matter. The possibilities that Nicholas plantation offer are tremendous. We do not have to recount history as regards the Abbey in itself as to say that it has two fire places or that the sitting room is panelled with cedar, but true as that may be, there is a lot we feel that recommends this Resolution to each and every hon. member on the other side of the House.

There can be no denying the fact that the northern parishes proper are crying out for amenities such as can be provided at nearby Nicholas Plantation. We feel, Sir, that the Abbey could no doubt provide Barbados with its first real home for a Civic Theatre, it being located in such close proximity to Cherry Tree Hill and overlooking the Scotland Valley. All of this, Mr. Speaker, is the more reason why in our view Government should give some sort of consideration to acquiring these 220 acres of land and the buildings thereon. There is much that needs to be preserved, and I am sure the Barbados National Trust would commend Government to preserve the building which I think was built in 1650 or thereabouts with its four chimneys, one in each corner.

I do not for myself see any necessity to labour the advantages that a Resolution such as this offers and seeks to bring before this Honourable House, because I feel that each and every hon. member on the other side is convinced that even with Farley Hill as at present, the acquiring of Nicholas Plantation would in itself offer ample opportunities for many an extension of the Government's agricultural programme for the benefit of the youth.

3.00 p.m.

We are sure that we could have here established what are called Evening Place Centres.

These are things that are sadly lacking in our community today, and on this I am recommending this Resolution to the care and attention of hon. members on the other side. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. FORDE: I beg to second that.

Hon. P. G. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to the arguments which the hon. member for St. Peter has advanced in proposing that the Government should initiate negotiations to acquire St. Nicholas Plantation, and I am led to the conclusion that the only argument which has tacitly been advanced which would justify such an acquisition is the fact that the plantation happens to be located in the parish of St. Peter.

The other suggestions put forward seem to be a little capricious, and certainly there is the strangest amalgamation of institutions which could ever find themselves on one common property. I would mention at first, Mr. Speaker, that I believe that though there are 220 acres of arable land on this plantation, there are indeed an additional 200 acres of non-arable land, so we are talking about 420 acres of land altogether. It has been suggested that upon this land there might be a cultural centre, playing fields, a safari park for hunting, a civic theatre, and a zoo, amongst others. I think you will have to be sure it has some pretty high walls and fences to keep the children from the animals and the animals from the children, but in all seriousness, we need in Barbados a cultural centre and a civic theatre, but surely even the hon. member for St. Peter would agree that this particular location is a little bit far from the main centre of the population for such admirable institutions to be developed.

Furthermore, we talk about a safari park for hunting, and I fully appreciate the careful wording of the Resolution so that there is no suggestion of any funds from the Treasury, but if we were talking about a safari park or even a zoo, and the hon. member is seriously asking the Government to look into the possibility of establishing or even purchasing land to establish such, one would have thought that we would have had some facts and figures in regard to the viability of a safari park and a zoo at St. Peter. I am no expert on safari parks but I have seen some, and my small impression would be that they are exceedingly expensive affairs to establish in the first place, they are exceedingly expensive places to maintain, and certainly would have to have a large number of people interested in paying substantial sums of money to make it worthwhile for our small country to establish such a park. Our friends in

Guyana, on the other hand, have the natural forests and facilities for establishing such — they also have wild life to some extent — and I think they can establish safari parks. However, to take our land and turn it into a jungle seems to me to be a little far fetched, so we have a situation where all kinds of arguments have been advanced, and I would say to the hon. member that the idea of the National Trust being involved with such a beautiful building as Nicholas Abbey is certainly something to be desired, and I am given to understand that the owner of Nicholas Abbey is intending to build a separate house on the property for the purpose of housing the Manager on the estate who presently resides in the Abbey so that the Abbey can be put in good order and all being well the Abbey may be opened to the public during the next winter season when the National Trust runs these house visits.

Much as I sympathise with the idea of establishing all these lovely things in the parish of St. Peter, I myself hardly think it is a practical suggestion.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the terms of this Resolution may appear unwise when you consider that the Government has already invested money in numerous plantations, many of them in the Scotland area, and they are now under the control of the Agricultural Development Corporation. I refer to Sedge Pond, the Haggatts group of estates and Haggatts Factory, to mention a few, and these plantations have all proved to be uneconomic ventures in so far as the economic side of being run on a commercial basis is concerned. I am not in a position to say that this particular plantation would be uneconomical, because it has 220 acres of arable land and 200 acres of non-arable land, but having served in the Ministry of Agriculture on more than one occasion, from my little experience in matters agricultural I would hardly expect St. Nicholas Plantation to be a very good economic venture from a plantation point of view or if worked on a commercial basis. It may well be that the non-arable land may be more valuable than the arable land for building purposes and development, but I am saying that the Government has already invested in quite a numerous number of uneconomic ventures, plantation-wise, so much so that the A.D.C. can hardly be expected to run their plantations as commercial ventures. The A.D.C. is more engaged in research than anything else and trying to diversify our agriculture. Be that as it may, Sir, you can hardly expect the Government to take up large sums of money and plough it into what may well be uneconomic ventures, and then the same members of the Opposition may be heard later on criticising the Government for wasting the taxpayers' money.

Government is already saddled with six or eight plantations in that area which are uneconomical to run. The hon. member has couched his language in very academic terms, he asks the Government "to initiate such negotiations with the local Attorneys or persons having such authority with a view to acquiring etc. etc. etc....." and it was intimated that the proprietor is absent from the island. The proprietor is a Barbadian and probably lives abroad, so he is not an absentee proprietor as such, it is not that the property is owned by a non-Barbadian, it is owned by a Barbadian who happens to live abroad and who is making his life abroad and having his plantation here assisting with the employment of Barbadians.

3.10 p.m.

Sir, I view it from the economic point of view in that already the Agricultural Development Corporation cannot function as a commercial entity. St. Nicholas Plantation is comprised of 220 acres of arable land and 200 acres of non-arable land. It would have been a different matter if we did not have Farley Hill, Cherry Tree Hill, the woods, and Sedge Pond Plantation which are ideal sites for youth camps and so on providing necessary amenities for the youth of the country. We have all of these places in close proximity to the estate, so it would hardly be appropriate or sensible in the face of that to invest in another plantation in the immediate neighbourhood under the pretext of providing playing fields and other amenities for the community in the parish of St. Peter in particular.

Another point is that St. Nicholas Plantation, being cited as it is, is one of the worst suggestions, because it is too close to Farley Hill. If the hon. member had been pressing for a central playing field near to Speightstown where a lot of people live, he would have our support. In this case, it is a question of acquiring another plantation where we have other lands almost adjacent. It is for that reason that acquiring a plantation like St. Nicholas, sited as it is, would hardly serve any real benefit to the community of Speightstown proper, although it would be useful as a sight-seeing place for holiday makers and on Bank Holidays and Sundays. If the price is very reasonable, probably, the Government may be interested. We do not know if the place is for sale, and we have no information about it. Probably the hon. member who moved the Resolution has all of this information at his disposal.

Now, the hon. member is suggesting that Government initiate negotiations for the purchase of this plantation. Speaking from the agricultural point of view, I certainly could not support it, and,

from the point of view of providing amenities for the people of St. Peter proper, it is out of the way; it is not central, and it would not help in any way in providing amenities for the people who have been so good as to re-elect the hon. member who has moved this Resolution. The hon. member would be well advised to select another area of land in close proximity to Speightstown where the people reside today and he would have the full support of Government members so that something beneficial could be done for his constituents in St. Peter.

Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Peter has advanced certain reasons or assertions in support of this Resolution calling upon Government to initiate negotiations for the acquisition of St. Nicholas Plantation. Among these reasons or assertions is the suggestion that this plantation or part of it could be used as a site for the establishment of a Cultural Centre. It is within my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, that a number of organisations and groups in this country have it as their aim to establish such a Centre and, indeed, they have entered upon fund-raising ventures towards the attainment of their goal and their objective.

It is Government's policy to see that this developing nation be provided with a Centre for the creative and performing arts, but it is pointless instituting such a Centre away from large centres of the population. Inasmuch as we would expect that such a Centre would cater not only for those persons who are more affluent and, therefore, may have transport by means of private cars and so on in order to get them to the Centre, we want this Centre to provide opportunities for cultural entertainment for a cross-section of the people in this country. Therefore, it would be highly unwise to site such a Centre for the creative and performing arts as far north as St. Nicholas Abbey, and the proposal for sitting such a Centre at St. Nicholas Abbey will not find support from the Government. I expect shortly to be in contact with the groups and organisations to which I have made reference in order to discuss proposals and plans for the establishment of such a Cultural Centre, but the hon. member for St. Peter can rest assured that it is far from Government's intention to site such a Centre as far north as St. Nicholas Abbey.

As far as the other assertion advanced that this plantation could provide suitable playing fields for schools which do not have such facilities is concerned, I would merely like to say that it is part of the policy of this Government to provide playing fields, subject to the availability of funds, at those schools which do not have adequate

facilities; but one of the main considerations here would be that such playing fields should, indeed, be within close proximity to the schools in order that they may obtain maximum benefit from such facilities.

3,20 p.m.

I do not consider that any schools are within sufficiently close proximity to Nicholas Plantation in order to provide the type of facilities to which I am making reference. As far as Boscobelle is concerned, there are areas of land much nearer where land could be acquired, and as far as evening playing centres for youth are concerned I think we would need to hear a little more about exactly what is entailed and involved in evening playing centres before I am to consider the establishment of any such playing centres for youth. Therefore from the point of view of matters relating to the Ministry of Education, Community Development, Youth Affairs and Sport, we will certainly find it very difficult on the grounds advanced here today to support this particular Resolution.

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, I am very loathe to enter the debate on this Resolution for the simple reason that to a considerable extent, following on the subjects for which I am responsible, I might find myself in the position of having to echo the Government's position in terms already made by previous speakers. I merely want to deal with a few points in the Resolution as moved. It has been advanced that in fact this plantation should be acquired in order to provide cultural pursuits for the people of the northern parishes which in fact we have already set out to do at Farley Hill.

In 1963 or 1964 the Government acquired Farley Hill. Since then Farley Hill has been landscaped and it is intended to upgrade Farley Hill in providing some of the very pursuits that the hon. member for St. Peter has suggested this afternoon we should provide. Of course, not hunting which I believe formed the principal part of the Resolution, because although I believe that Farley Hill and its environs which include Welchtown is much more wooded than Nicholas Plantation, yet at the same time there is a marked absence of the kind of creatures that safari hunters and so on like to pursue and hunt. I do not know what people would be hunting there for except mongooses, rats or lizards or in fact if they should go hunting for things that could not be got probably on the Garrison pasture. I cannot see how in view of the fact that Government owns Farley Hill in such close proximity to Nicholas Plantation, and only two years ago Government added to Farley Hill by acquiring an additional eight acres of land for the purpose of providing a car park and

playing field at Farley Hill from Welchtown plantation, it should be asked to dip its hands into the treasury for perhaps another \$½ million to acquire Nicholas plantation, when in fact this is about the kind of money we will require to spend on the restoration of Queen's Park which we already own and we now have to make it useful for the people of this country and not only for people in the central areas. We have in a way to do the same for King George V Memorial Park at a similar cost. It is going to cost in each case no less than \$½ million. The same applies to Farley Hill, and I do not see how Government can do the same for St. Nicholas Abbey which is so near by. It is true that the name is "Nicholas" which of course means "Christmas", but that does not mean that the Government is Santa Claus.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have advanced enough reasons why we should not support this. One other reason is that I believe very strongly that this plantation falls within that area, we find in the Act, of the Scotland District which stretches from Boscobelle in the north to Consett Bay in the South, which means of course that it is subject to slippage, and I do not see why Government should set about acquiring further problems. If there are problems relating to Nicholas Abbey, I think they should remain where they are and not become an additional charge on our slender resources. If the hon. member for St. Peter had recommended that we acquire the wooded Cherry Tree Hill which I am sure everybody would agree would provide one of the most beautiful sceneries in the whole world, this is something we could look at in a different way. If in fact the Hon. Mover of the Resolution had again suggested that we should acquire the Abbey because of some peculiar historic or architectural reason, we could again consider this, but we do not consider the reasons as advanced potent enough to require us to dip our hands so deeply into the taxpayers' money to acquire this plantation and the Government therefore cannot support it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not really want to go into the merits or demerits of whether St. Nicholas Plantation should be bought, but what I do agree with is the principle of establishing amenities such as this, and if by safari park is meant providing some sort of wild life for Barbaods, a zoo or something like this, I entirely agree with the suggestion. It may very well be that as advanced by Government it may be an uneconomic proposition to purchase St. Nicholas Plantation, but I think the idea of establishing some sort of park where you have wild life is an idea that Government should not

just cast aside. It may be one of the things they would like to pass on to the Parks and Beaches Commission. As the Minister of Lands has said, the Government has in recent years acquired some more land to be added to Farley Hill, and rather than purchasing a new plantation the Government may feel that they could purchase some more land around the vicinity of Farley Hill and establish there the type of park that the member for St. Peter would like to see established at St. Nicholas Plantation. I do not believe that when he says a safari park that he means a park where people can go hunting, but hon. members are perhaps meticulous in their definition. As I understand it, what is meant is the sort of thing you have established in some of the older homes in England where animals are brought in not for the purpose of hunting, but there are large areas where animals are brought in and preserved and allowed to run wild in these places.

3.30 p.m.

If the hon. member means this sort of park where animals are brought in whether from various parts of Africa or from various parts of the West Indies, I think the idea of having some place in Barbados where this can be done is a very good one, and I would like to commend this part of it to the Government, even though you may feel that it is not an economic proposition to buy Nicholas Abbey, but I think the Government should consider the establishment of the sort of park the hon. member would like to see. I am very much in favour of the provision of open spaces, and I would even like to see the Government make some attempt to promote this.

There is an area of land outside the Hospital that whenever the Government is finished with the present construction there the rest of it could be used for gardens. Whatever buildings are put up, land should be left there, and I would commend to Government the use of that for the establishment of a botanical garden or something like that. There is also land on the other side of the road between Hall's Road and Queen's Park which has already been designated a flood area and the people living there should not be living there now, but I think this portion of land should have additional facilities provided not only for the people of the City but for the people of Barbados as a whole. I think one of the things very noticeable in Barbados, unlike Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica, Dominica or any of the other West Indian Islands, is the absence of this sort of botanical garden, and I would like to commend to Government the principle of establishing some sort of wild life reserve as distinct from a safari park.

If you do not want to do it at Nicholas Abbey then by all means do it at Farley Hill, but you would need more land there. It is not a question now of serving the northern parishes, but it would be some place where other Barbadians on bank holidays and weekends could leave Bridgetown and go for some sort of relaxation, and I commend this idea to the Government. I think the Government ought not to think in terms of whether it is an economical proposition or otherwise, I have heard the hon. member for St. Michael South Central state on many occasions in this House that if it is in the interest of the people the question of cost does not arise, but certainly the idea of establishing a wild life reserve in Barbados is an idea which would benefit the people of Barbados as a whole.

I hope the Government will accept this principle of establishing a wild life reserve in the north. I believe that when the time comes for the Rockley Golf Club to be removed the Government could consider developing a part in that area with the type of outlay you have there. We have been told from time to time that all the land is being used for building purposes and development and the idea of a park is not a bad one. If the Government feels it cannot buy Nicholas Plantation that is all right, but I would commend to them the establishment of a wild life reserve.

Hon. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, some time ago I remember His Holiness the Pope in reviewing the Saints and Patrons of the Roman Catholic Church found that there was no true religious foundation for St. Nicholas and he removed St. Nicholas from the group of Patron Saints which the people revered for some time. I would say today that the Government will remove by vote one of the hon. member's flogging horses, St. Nicholas Plantation.

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I want to lend support on this side to the acquisition of some area, whether it be St. Nicholas or not, and I would hope it would be St. Nicholas, because it seems as if we are guided so much in this country now by what people from outside do, say or tell us, yet on the other hand we are being constantly told we have now shaken off the shackles of Colonial rule. I believe it is time for us to think for ourselves, and reading the newspaper I see the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Sport has been rebuking so many of our Barbadian teams for acquiring foreign names, but if we have had a St. Nicholas in Barbados by history what is wrong with keeping St. Nicholas in Barbados?

I want to support my hon. friend for this reason. We are supposed to be a small country in

which we are now staking part of our existence on tourism, but because of the Shops Act we find that tourists are coming to Barbados and we read in the newspaper next day of the number of tourists who arrived and found a dead or closed city. We have to make the most we can out of the tourists and if we cannot do this by selling them the goods, then we should find some other way of making this money.

3.40 p.m.

I would think it is a good idea if the Government could accept the Resolution and create what I would call a "Wild Life and Game Reserve". You must realise, Mr. Speaker, that many of the tourists who come to Barbados today, or who frequent the Caribbean are people who come from New York or somewhere in England and probably have never yet seen anything called 'wild life' at all. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think that the only thing tourists nowadays have to see in Barbados when the shops are closed is what takes place at Harry's, and you will have to provide an alternative somewhere along the line.

The Government might as well accept the fact that, if we are in tourism, we have to offer something to the tourists. (*Laughter.*) I do not mind the other side laughing when I said that many of these tourists have never seen a living creature of wild life other than in pictures or on television. I lived in England for 8½ years and, while I was working at the London County Council, a girl told me that she had never seen a chicken alive. I agree that many of us have never yet seen wild life. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member speak in silence, please!

Mr. BOLDEN: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be a good idea if we can have the game birds and the wild life of the Caribbean and place them somewhere so that, when Bridgetown is closed, the tourists can have something to look at. That is the whole object of this exercise. (*Asides.*)

Mr. SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

Mr. BOLDEN: I can only go by the records, Mr. Speaker. If it was such a hit when two Macaws from Guyana were taken to Expo in Canada, I do not see why Barbados cannot do the same thing. I heard that these Macaws talked so much in Canada that people flocked to the Barbados-Guyana pavilion to see these two miracles from Guyana talking. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "To hear them curse.") They have never said a word since they came back down. Mr.

Speaker, we can get the hon. member for Christ Church North Central to advise the Government on this matter. We can bring in some more Guyanese parrots, some Grenadian deer and so on, and we can have the Publicity Agents doing the same job as was done for the Macaws. They can say: "Visit Barbados and hear the talking parrots of St. Nicholas." (*Asides.*) I am only repeating, Mr. Speaker, what was said about the two Macaws at Expo in Canada. They said: "Visit the Barbados-Guyana pavilion and hear Milly and the other one letting go the fancy words."

Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, we have to attract tourists to this country. If you go to Farley Hill all you are going to see are ruins. You see walls standing like the ancient Greek walls, and I am sure that tourists are not going to be interested in hearing that this building had one of the most marvellous ceilings you have ever seen, but it was burnt. If you can take them to a place and say: "These are the birds of Guyana; these are the birds of Trinidad." (*Asides.*) Mr. Speaker, do not mind the members on the other side laughing. How many of them over there have ever seen the scarlet bird in Tobago? The Trinidad Government would not allow you to bring out that bird nowadays. How many members over there have ever seen the birds of paradise? If you create a situation where people coming to Barbados can be taken to a place and told: "These are the national birds of Guyana; these are the national birds of Trinidad; these are the national birds of Barbados," we will provide some sort of attraction for them. Is it too much to provide facilities whereby you can entertain tourists and, as they call it, make the invisible dollar on the black man?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the hon. member for St. Joseph is serious when he says that, because we have not seen the birds in Tobago, we must buy a plantation in order to see a bird. That is just like saying if I want a piece of cane, I must buy a whole plantation. You do not buy a plantation in order that you can see the birds and see wild life, otherwise we will go and claim whatever forest we have in Barbados in order to preserve some of the wild life. The measure in itself must stand up as a national institution in order for you to buy it.

Now, St. Nicholas Abbey is distinct from St. Nicholas Plantation. Why must we buy 220 acres of land in order to get a house that is standing on 5 acres or a few acres of land? To prove what? If it were not St. Nicholas Abbey, would we go and buy every gully where there is wild life? Do you think wild life is anything new to Barbados? The preservation of wild life cannot be

done on an *ad hoc* basis. This old-fashioned idea that every time a plantation is put up for sale - it is true we have no Crown Lands, but if each one of us in our own constituencies started looking about for something to preserve what would happen? Suppose we looked around for some old chairs and old furniture. Barbadians do not like to preserve their furniture. You will go into homes in Barbados nowadays and you will find that people have thrown out good mahogany furniture and brought in something modern.

Mr. Speaker, I was listening to hear that there was something ancient about St. Nicholas Abbey. You have to look at these matters in terms of whether you are going to ask the State to own them. Sometimes these things are preserved by some of the voluntary institutions in a community, and not necessarily a State. I do not know if hon. members on the other side are interested in this philosophy. If you turn the State into the purchaser of everything that is going, very soon you will ask the State itself to buy over itself from itself, because you will be asking the Government to buy Barbados from itself and not to acquire it by other means. Why is it that the National Trust organisation was not approached in this matter? That is the type of body that could look into this matter, so that we would know what we are talking about. What examination has been made into this matter?

Mr. ADAMS entered the Chamber and took his seat.

3.50 p.m.

One has to think in terms of the proportion of land that is needed for wild life because you cannot take a whole plantation and turn it into a forest. Some of the plantation is arable land for growing sugar cane, and I do not think anybody can pretend that there is anything peculiar or strange in growing sugar cane. We have been growing it for 200 years; so I do not see why you have to buy a plantation in order to preserve St. Nicholas Abbey if it is the house you want to preserve. The other important thing about it is that if the owners are interested in selling a thing like this, a parliamentary member does not have to make a song and dance about this, because if the owners really want to negotiate a matter like this with the Government, normally they start negotiating with the Government by saying that this is something in which the National Trust would be interested.

I was really amused when I heard the hon. member for St. Joseph say that members on this side do not know anything about birds. There are so many million birds in the world that unless

you are a specialist on wild life, you would have to spend your whole life flying around the world to know all the birds. Imagine a person going to a place like Kenya and pretending to know all the birds in Kenya, far less all of Africa. After all the world is small from the point of view of air travel, but it is a big place in relation to all the marine life and bird life; so I do not see that there is any point in telling us that we have to purchase a plantation in order to see birds. The important thing about it is that if the wild life at Nicholas Abbey is something to be preserved, that could be a question of examining it apart from buying the 200 acres; but if you want to sell the whole thing lock, stock and barrel and say that the Abbey should be preserved, I am not a believer in hearing that something is up for sale, or you do not know if it is for sale, and an hon. member is using this as a sales pitch. If I had to present a measure like this in my own constituency, I would present it for what it stands for and not necessarily as something I expect to get anything out of. It would be purely what I felt was good for the nation.

The hon. member spoke about an esplanade. I do not know if an esplanade is just a name, but there is an esplanade in Speightstown and if I were the representative as I was on one occasion, I would ask Government to do something about the area going along the front road and build a boulevard. Leave out this nonsense of looking for somebody's plantation to sell and look at something that is worthwhile. Get all the land going down to Sixmen's and have a decent boulevard and frontage that you can have something of aesthetic value. Get something like the esplanade that was put there some years ago so that when the sea begins to encroach it does not go over the other side. You should have something of lasting value for the community and do not allow anybody to build on the seaside along there until you get to Sixmen's. Take down the old Sixmen's building instead of it jutting out half-way in the road, put the houses on the beach land on the other side of the street and build something very nice on the seaside. The two members for St. Peter and St. Lucy should get together and look at that sort of case if they have that sort of outlook and if they can see this sort of beauty. Nature has done us a good job from Speightstown to Sixmen's in that the sea has pulled down one side; so let us continue with nature in her way and put up a decent boulevard on the other side, a sort of waterfront, not in the same huge way as the seawall in Guyana, but something that would beautify the area. That is the sort of thing I would like to see. Instead of Heywood's Park being sold to other people, I had asked the last Government many years ago to

utilise it for the people by making a park and playing field, but the Government of the day told me that it was too far from the people.

I see the Leader of the Opposition is anxious to speak, and I am going to remind him so that he can get his facts clear that his Government refused to use Heywood's as one of these scenes and said it was too far for the people. Now I do not know in terms of people if you think that St. Nicholas would be more in the centre of the population than Heywood's. I had a long term eye, and if the Union had the money in those days, instead of buying the one in St. Philip we would have bought the land there because it has all the settings. The people who were supposed to use it, bought it ten years ago and they have not gone anything with it yet. It is land lying fallow and nothing has taken place. These are the things that the Government, if it had the foresight, should have developed, and now they are going to start ten years after when the price is so high. I believe in the Government acquiring open spaces, but you should acquire open spaces that are really open spaces and not lands just for the sake of acquiring lands. If you are going to acquire old buildings, acquire old buildings, but I do not see why any Government should be encumbered with the idea of having to own a whole plantation in order to own a small building.

Mr. SPEAKER: Private Members' Business time will expire at 4.30 p.m.

Mr. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I did not have the advantage of being present at the start of the discussion on this Resolution, and therefore many of my remarks will necessarily be governed by the speeches which I have been fortunate enough to hear, the speech of the hon. member who has just sat down and the speeches of various hon. members on this side. I remember, to start with a controversial matter first, when this Resolution first appeared on the Order Paper, I was given some clue that the Government might oppose it because it was suggested that certain members on the other side were personally interested in the purchase of the plantation. I have no way whatsoever of knowing whether this is true or false. We will know whether or not the Government will oppose it when the vote comes, but I have absolutely no way of being able to give the lie to the aspects which I have just outlined. I am not going to dwell at any length on that. I have heard what members have said especially the hon. member for St. Michael-West when he said why buy 200 acres of a plantation in order to get a house. It may very well be that

the owner of the house himself intends to devote it to public purposes.

I have no idea whatsoever about the background of the Resolution except what I have heard in passing one way or another; but I want hon. members rather than treat this matter frivolously and laughing at the idea of birds of paradise and other species and the hunting and the safari aspects of the whole Resolution, to consider what the main industry of Barbados is. The main industry of Barbados at the moment is selling the environment and the ecology of Barbados to people from outside. That is the chief industry, and no country in the world which depends upon visitors from outside will survive unless a wider range of facilities than is at present offered in Barbados is going to be offered to visitors.

4.00 p.m.

There will be those who will come and tell us that you must have a casino here and have gambling and that this will attract many visitors from outside. I daresay it will, but that is not one of the attractions I will support. There are people who tell us that to be a high-priced resort would attract more visitors but I do not subscribe to that either. About one thing I am absolutely sure, that if you are selling a tourist resort you have to try to sell something as well as the sun, sea and the beach, you have to sell more than that because many places are getting into the sun, sea and beach operation.

The area where this 200 acres is in St. Peter is to my mind a very important one, because it is one of the last of the unspoilt stretches of country in Barbados which is not down in the gully. It starts at Cherry Tree Hill which is a part of Nicholas Plantation — the woods of Cherry Tree Hill indeed show what can be done with our environment because they were deliberately planted for scenic effect some 70 or 80 years ago — it continues through Farley Hill, Bleak House and on to Sedge Pond which is a ridge of about 800 feet above sea level, and it has other woods around the house and those at Prospect. I know that both hon. members who have sat for St. Peter in this House would be familiar with what I am talking about, the view from Cherry Tree Hill is well known, a view has been opened up in the back of Farley Hill, and my view is that that entire ridge should be devoted to environmental improvement scenes. A good deal of this will be found to be owned by Nicholas Plantation, some will be owned by Welch Town and some indeed may be owned by the Government itself, and I am very worried at the thought that hon. members opposite, view this as a joke, a view perhaps of the unexpert reaching out to the

question of wild life which has been heard of no doubt by both sides of this House.

I heard somebody pour scorn on the birds of Tobago, but one of the tourist attractions in Tobago is its bird life, and one of the important attractions of Trinidad is the Caroni Swamp where people go to see the Scarlet Ibis. Are we really intending to raise generations of Barbadian children who will never know a black bird, because the numbers are decreasing at a very rapid rate, but are we going to raise children who will not see any form of wild life at all? There are some monkeys in Barbados, and I think if you go to one of the few houses in St. Michael that has an acre of ground around it you are more likely to see monkeys there than if you go out to the traditional places, but I believe that the Government would do well and find that it has created places of interest if it has a park in which monkeys were encouraged to live by planting some fruit trees because they eat lots of soft fruit.

Barbados does have a greater variety of bird life than I think people realise, and if by creating suitable environmental conditions you could keep a few of the migratory birds here in sanctuaries to be observed this would be a good thing. The hon. member for Christ Church North Central should surely know the interest that Graeme Hall creates — albeit to only a small part of the community — but these things are attractive both to your inhabitants and to the visitors from other countries. I am appalled to hear hon. members laughing at a motion which seeks to promote environmental scenery such as this. The hon. member for St. Michael South Central is saying something about a safari park, but what I understand about a safari park is where you go to look at the collection of wild animals there. I believe that the hon. member who introduced the Resolution may have referred to a safari park as a place where you go to look at the wild life, but nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. Michael South Central is a person whose accuracy of local knowledge can be judged best by saying that St. Nicholas was demoted from the first rank of the calendar some years ago. Without being a member of the Roman Catholic Church myself, I can tell you that the Saint was St. George and not St. Nicholas. You can judge the accuracy of what he says by what he says standing up or sitting down in the House.

On the question of gullies, you only have to read of the work which is being done by the National Trust for the people of Barbados every year. The *Advocate* a few days ago carried a repeat of a story published in North American

newspapers about Mr. Worrell who is the very able and active Curator of Welchman Hall Gully, and Welchman Hall is not the only one. I believe there are more plants to be planted at Welchman Hall in the interest of Barbadians and visitors to the island as well, but this is not the only gully in the area. I am suggesting the Government should take a serious look at the principle behind the introduction of this Resolution. There are many other places in the north that could be embraced within this principle, it is not only Nicholas, you have to look at the principle behind the Resolution. Pico Teneriffe is an area full of interest and development potential. (*Asides*) The hon. member has taken the words out of my mouth when he mentioned the Animal Flower Cave. Every year in Bermuda an enormous income accrues from the development of Crystal Cave. Cole's Cave here in Barbados is a somewhat deeper cave but is certainly an easier cave to exploit than Crystal Cave in Bermuda.

4.10 p.m.

I also believe that Turner's Hall Woods — I think that we should grasp the matter firmly at this stage and forget that the ownership of Turner's Hall Wood is subject to some political rumour. Let us forget all of that and let the Government be prepared — I and my side would not shrink even if it meant putting some money into the pockets of private members in the Government — to think in terms of acquiring Turner's Hall Woods laying out an area in it for excursions, and making sure that the trees are preserved and the road through the wood properly rebuilt, at least, for foot passengers. All of these are things that we cannot ignore, if we are going to preserve the environment of Barbados and develop it into areas that nature itself could not do unassisted. I would hope that, even if hon. members find it impossible to support the acquisition of Nicholas itself from the various reasons that may have been adduced, even if hon. members find it unsuitable in the aspect of acquiring agricultural land, the whole question of environmental development having been aired as a result of this Resolution, the Government should put somebody to work on it and submit a Report to the Government.

Sir, there are members of the Opposition who will be only too glad to make their views known. You cannot expect that all of the members opposite have read our Manifesto. It will be recalled, Sir, that much of this was in the Manifesto of the Barbados Labour Party for the last election. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "Not St. Nicholas!") Not St. Nicholas, but we are talking about the principle. I know that certain hon. members opposite find that a hard word to deal with. We are talking about the principle.

In conclusion, the report of the Parks and Beaches Commission has been circulated and is before hon. members. Why do they not listen to the people who compose that Commission and work with the matter every day? Read what sensible people had to say in the Report, regardless of their political persuasion. These are sensible people doing a good job; listen to what they have to say about the principle behind a Resolution such as this. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: "On what page?") It is not in this report. Go and ask them what they have to say, if you prefer me to say that, about the principle of a Resolution such as this; put the idea into their hands and take their recommendations. Read what they have said about Queen's Park and Farley Hill in the Report; read what they are doing for the community, and you will realise that this type of environmental development is what is urgently needed in Barbados today. It is accepted on all sides that the Parks and Beaches Commission is one of the most successful of the Statutory Bodies of the Government, and its activities have less political controversy attached to them almost than any other. The members are widely respected in this community for what they are doing for the parks and beaches of Barbados. Put something like this in their hands, and see what they will tell you about it, and then come back to the House in due course. If the Government can spend \$40,000 on a house in London that nobody lives in; if it can spend goodness knows how many million dollars on C.B.C. to provide colour television for 500 people, surely it can spend a few dollars in preserving a little of the unspoilt countryside of Barbados for Barbadians and visitors to the Island alike.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, it is clear now that hon. members on the other side will not be lending their support to this Resolution. The reasons advanced are many, although they can hardly hold water or stand examination. For instance, the Leader of the House has told us enough to understand that the Government is somewhat bankrupt, when one considers the number of uneconomic ventures it now finds itself saddled with as regards the estates of....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I never suggested that the Government is bankrupt. I did say that it would not be viable or feasible for the Government to invest in another plantation in the Scotland area where it has many other plantations which have not been economic and which cannot be worked on a commercial basis. There is no point in throwing away more money.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a point of explanation.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, the very last remarks of the Minister are that nobody is throwing away any more money, which in itself is admitting that the Government has thrown money away. The Minister has told us about these uneconomic ventures. That is not my fault, Mr. Speaker. This Resolution has been in the hands of hon. members and, in my view, any hon. member who was prepared to tell himself, irrespective of the side of the House from which it had come, that it deserved some sort of consideration would have come up with something quite different from what we have witnessed here today.

Now, we find that the Hon. Minister for Education, the member for St. Michael South, has been at pains to tell us of the various reasons I had advanced why this should be bought and so on. This Government is prepared to provide playing fields for schools and so on, and if we are to take him seriously he would have to buy all of Nicholas Plantation before the day is out to provide playing fields for Boscobelle Boys' School and Boscobelle Girls' School for the simple reason that he does not know what he is talking about. Boscobelle's Girls' School, which does not have a playing field at all, is located less than 100 yards away from St. Nicholas Plantation lands.
4.20 p.m.

Boscobelle Boys' School is less than 300 yards away from Nicholas Plantation lands.
(Asides)

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: On a point of order,....

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Speaker, am I to be heckled all the time like this?

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

Hon. P. M. GREAVES: Mr. Speaker, the government is negotiating, and if I am not mistaken, has bought lands from Castle Plantation in order to provide playing fields for these schools. (Hon. F. G. SMITH: That is a yorker.)

Mr. HINDS: I am hearing in an aside about a yorker. I want to tell the hon. member who is shouting "yorker" that I am the person who introduced a Resolution that was unanimously passed in this House asking Government to acquire lands from the Castle plantation to provide playing fields for Boscobelle Girls' School. At that time the hon. member had run away and had not got back yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must confine himself to replying. Hon. members who are not speaking, please observe silence.

Mr. HINDS: What we are saying is that much comment has been made about the safari park. The hon. member for the City has just made the point that some hon. members who are laughing on the other side are just suited for being placed there. Surrounding Nicholas Abbey there has been cultivated what are known as breadnut trees and as the hon. member for St. Thomas made mention earlier of the number of monkeys that have been living in Nicholas Woods for very many years, they have been known to be feeding upon the breadnuts that have been cultivated in the Nicholas woods more readily than anywhere else perhaps in the Island.

Now, Sir, I heard mention made by the same hon. member for St. Thomas of Turner's Hall Woods. This I did not want to say, but Turner's Hall Woods at present provide a certain amount of venture for groups of young men because there has got around the belief that marijuana is to be found in Turner's Hall Woods, and on week-ends groups of young men assemble and go on expeditions to Turner's Hall Woods in search of marijuana. Whether they find or not I cannot say. (Asides) Mr. Speaker, I am being heckled.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ignore the asides.

Mr. HINDS: Now there is one point to which I must draw attention. I think the hon. member for St. Michael-West made mention that in introducing measures of this sort one must not see what one can get out of it or one should stop looking for somebody's old plantation to sell. I am not a real estate agent. I have no interest in real estate or selling anybody real estate. There has been no communication between myself and anybody concerning Nicholas Plantation. It is merely a case where I learnt that there was every likelihood of the plantation going on the open market for sale and that certain interests were making moves to acquire it, and I felt that the interest of the youth of this nation would best be served if a Resolution such as this were brought before the House. Remember, Sir, all this Resolution is asking the Government to do is to negotiate with the attorneys of Nicholas Plantation. I heard mention made of \$½ million by members on the other side. I do not know whether it costs \$¼ million, \$½ million or \$10 million, but what I feel and from what I have gathered since this Resolution has been tabled is that if Government were really interested in doing something, it might find that the 220 acres

of land could be got from the owners of Nicholas Plantation for very little more than the actual Abbey really costs. In other words you would have to buy the Abbey and get the lands thrown in so to speak. If this Resolution had been given the amount of attention that it really deserved, rather than hon. members setting their backs up against it from the very outset, Government might not find itself losing so much through the attitude of hon. members on that side.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the hon. member would give way, in order to facilitate the hon. member and bring this matter to conclusion in view of the time, 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.

Mr. HINDS: There is no need for that. I have finished. You can put it to the vote.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member still want the Standing Orders suspended?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I merely made the motion to facilitate the hon. member.

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

NOES: Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON; Hon. A. Dac. EDWARDS; Hon. P. M. GREAVES; Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE; Hon. F. G. SMITH; Hon. L. E. SANDIFORD; Mr. LOWE; Mr. WALCOTT; Mr. GREAVES; Mr. MORRISON and Mr. WEEKES - 12.

AYES: Mr. HINDS; Mr. BOLDEN and Mr. MOTTLEY - 3.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, we now revert to Government Business.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with Item No. 1 standing in the name of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to deal with Order No. 1 under Government Business in the absence of the Minister of Finance, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into 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. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. LOWE in the Chair.

4.30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1971-72 NO. 26

Head 27 — Police — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of Head 27 — Police, there are several Items, the notes to which are fairly explanatory, but in view of the fact that I prefer to give as much information as I have at my disposal, I think I will pursue that policy this afternoon.

In dealing with Item 34 — Special Constables, the amount of \$3,600 is provided under this Item in the current year's Estimates; to the 30th September, 1971 the amount of \$3,400 was spent. There are bills in hand totalling \$750 and it is requested that this Item be supplemented by \$2,800 to cover claims in hand and any others to the end of the financial year.

Item 40 — Upkeep of Animals. The sum of \$1,530.66 lapsed under this Item at the end of the financial year 1970-71; this sum was required to pay for saddlery ordered through the Crown Agents but which was not received in time for payment to be made by the 31st March, 1971. The saddlery has since been received and supplementary provision of \$1,531 is therefore necessary.

Item 45 — Maintenance of Vehicles. The sum of \$81,623 is voted under this Item in the current year's Estimates. At the 31st March, 1971 the sum of \$67,110.56 was spent leaving a balance of \$14,512.44. This high expenditure is as a result of an overall increase in cost of repairs and maintenance of vehicles. Also the sum of \$13,872.56 was spent during this financial year for items ordered during the last financial year. The average monthly expenditure is \$8,873, and the sum of \$480 lapsed under this Item at the end of the financial year 1970-71. This amount was earmarked for the purchase of six bicycles ordered through the Crown Agents; the bicycles have since arrived and there has been an increase

in the cost. The cost of the bicycles is \$1,502 and freight charges total \$96.92, therefore a supplementary provision of \$25,599 is required.

Item 52 — Court. The amount of \$400 voted under this Item is exhausted. There has been an increase in the number of cases for which costs were awarded against the Commissioner of Police and supplementary provision for the sum of \$1,000 to cover the payment of any such costs which may be awarded against the Commissioner of Police during the remainder of the financial year is required.

Item 54 — Maintenance of Photographic Equipment. The amount of \$2,100 is voted under this Item in the current Estimates; at the 30th September, 1971 there was a balance of \$1,752.16 and bills in hand totalling \$1,750.03. The reasons for depletion of funds under this Item are the increase in cost of some of the essential articles used for finger-printing and photography, also an increase in the number of cases involving photography and finger-printing. In 1969 there were 1,268 cases involving photographing and finger-printing, in 1970 there were 1,494 and in 1971 to date there are 1,439 as compared with 1,111 for the same period during 1970. It is therefore estimated that a supplementary provision of \$1,500 will be adequate to settle bills in hand and to meet expenditure to the end of the financial year.

Item 56 — Corpes. The amount of \$4,500 is voted under this Item. At 30th September, 1971 the amount of \$4,228 was spent as a result of the increase in the number of removals. It is requested that this Item be supplemented by \$1,500 to cover claims to the end of the financial year.

Item 63 — Deportation. The amount of \$1,500 is voted under this Item in the current Estimates. At 31st August, 1971 the sum of \$1,262 was spent leaving a balance of \$238 which is inadequate to meet estimated expenditure to the end of the financial year. Bills in hand total \$239.60 and it is estimated that a supplementary provision of \$2,500 would be adequate to pay bills in hand and to meet expenditure to the end of the financial year.

Item 67 — Furniture and Equipment. The amount of \$608.66 lapsed under this Item at the end of the financial year 1970-71.
4.40 p.m.

The amount was earmarked for the payment of a resuscitator and spares ordered through the

Crown Agents, but which were not received in time for payment by 31st March, 1971. These supplies have since been received at a cost of \$614.40 with freight charges \$40.92.

The Air Conditioning Unit in the office of the Senior Superintendent Mobile Division became inefficient, and an examination of repairs revealed that it would be most uneconomical to carry out the repairs necessary since the cost of repairs would be \$500 as against \$700 which is the cost of a new unit. Supplementary provision in the sum of \$1,365 is required to meet the payment of supplies ordered through the Crown Agents and to replace the Air Conditioning Unit. I do not know if hon. members are satisfied with getting all of the details at one time.

With regard to Item 68 – Motor Vehicles – provision is included under this Item in the current Estimates for the purchase of 5 motor cycles at \$1,950 each; 4 cars equipped with wireless at \$8,500 each; 1 lorry at \$8,000; 1 Prison Van at \$13,000; 1 Ambulance at \$9,000. The Chief Supply Officer has advised that there has been an increase in the cost of all items listed above. The 5 motor cycles now cost \$2,150 each – an increase of \$200 each; 4 motor cars \$9,300 each – an increase of \$800 each; 1 lorry \$11,330 – an increase of \$3,300; 1 Prison Van \$15,945 – an increase of \$2,945; 1 Ambulance \$12,500 – an increase of \$3,500. The extent of the increase in cost of the above vehicles is \$13,945.

On the 30th April, 1971, the Austin 3 litre car M 3013 was involved in an accident and was written off by the Standing Insurance Committee, and the written down value of \$6,938 was paid to general revenue. It is proposed to replace the car by a Rover 3500 at a cost of \$7,800.

On the 1st May, 1971, a Land Rover M 2917 was involved in an accident and was written off by the Standing Insurance Committee. The cost of a new Land Rover is \$6,800. Supplementary provision is, therefore, necessary and is being sought in the sum of \$28,545 to meet the increase in cost of vehicles mentioned above and to replace the Austin 3 Litre and the Land Rover.

With regard to Item 71 – Beds, Pillows, etc. – the sum of \$50,810 lapsed under this Item at the end of the financial year 1970–71. This amount was earmarked for the purchase of beds and pillows all of which were not received by the 31st March, 1971. In addition, there was an increase in the contract price for providing combined units each comprising of bedstead, head-board, mattress, pillows and chairs. The contract was awarded at \$129 per unit, but

provision in the Estimates was made for \$110 per unit. It is requested that this Item be supplemented by \$26,000. I have given full explanatory notes in each case.

I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

Dr. the Hon. R. B. CADDLE: I beg to second that.

Mr. HINDS: Mr. Chairman, the first Item deals with Special Constables – \$2,800. We would like to hear something about Special Constables from the Minister, because we feel that, apparently, there are not enough of them who are employed. It would be interesting to know exactly how many of them have been employed during the course of the year, because it must be considered that they are employed to render assistance in the policing of the country in some respect. They have to render some sort of security service. We have had quite recently from the mouth of the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. George Reid, what a hopeless position it is in this Island where the police and the detection of crime stand.

4.50 p.m.

We feel on this point that we need to have more island constables. There is a need too to reintroduce perhaps the moiety system. For instance, it cannot be denied that wherever one goes about this country you find people without any provocation whatsoever resorting to what might be best described as the RH and the FK language. There is a lot of foul and filthy behaviour along the streets. That is the way people feel they should best express themselves, and what I am saying is that it is not only the uneducated type of person doing it, but you find this in boys and girls who are supposed to be benefiting from our free secondary education, perhaps, because of the company they are keeping. We would like to see all this stamped out for the benefit of the community as a whole. There is a total absence in very many residential areas of the policeman in uniform. The Force as you know is now motorised and a speed car passes through the area and that is all. It does not in our opinion lend an opportunity for grappling with the problem of the rise of bad behaviour, and we need to have more of the island constable and the special constable to serve the villages.

I very well remember that in times past the island constables were men who were feared in the districts in which they lived and elsewhere, and I would like to see that there is increased vigilance by these island constables, and if it is necessary

to recruit them on some fixed basis for some period, we have got to have this ill-behaviour that is exhibited on our street, this foul, filthy, dirty language campaign that people are revelling in, blotted out.

I was saying, Sir, that we had the Assistant Commissioner telling us that he now has to deal with the more sophisticated type of criminal, and the way the Assistant Commissioner appeared on television and put it over left every householder and property owner to my mind shuddering. He presented in my view a hopeless specimen of a policeman and gave one to believe, feel and understand that the Police Force is not on top of the situation, and that they are not in themselves equal to the task that confronts them. My feeling is that the Police Force should not be operating on such a scale. It is for the police to be able to master any such situation. There are no two ways about it that we have got to look to see what we are recruiting into our ranks and the type of training our recruits are being given. You will find, Sir, that there are Sergeants who came from Police Forces with a standard far below that of Barbados, but they are instructors at our Regional Police Training Centre. If that is the case, what are we then turning out? I am serious about this. You find today policemen chewing gum on the streets whilst on duty. That is not good enough. I happened to be on James Street this morning and a citizen had occasion to send to Central Police Station requesting the assistance of the police, and the messenger returned to say that the Sergeant said that as soon as one had come in he would send him.

We need, Mr. Chairman, a strengthening of the Police Force, and the island constables and special constables could be used to greater advantage in stamping out many of the offences that we now witness committed here, there and everywhere.
5.00 p.m.

Perhaps the Minister would be in a position to tell us something about the expenditure on this photography where he spent \$2,100 during the year and is now requiring \$1,500 to carry him through to the end of the financial year. I am sure that the Minister is well aware of the fact that while you will find there might be an increase in the cost of plates and films, there can hardly be any increase in this Department to demand an additional \$1,500. I know there was a time when the developers were mixed locally or they were bought ready mixed, so I cannot see how this additional expenditure has got to be engaged in at all.

In the case of finger-printing, all one needs is a pouch of ink and a slab that will last for a million generations, so you will understand, Mr. Chairman, that it is quite all right for a Minister to have presented to him a requisition for an amount of money to spend on this Item or on that. Forms are printed at the Government Printery and I do not think there is an increase called for at the Government Printery, because the Government Printery is not competing with the commercial printeries, and I cannot feel that that expenditure can be justified by the Minister who has introduced this Resolution.

Maintenance of Vehicles. \$25,599 is now being asked for, and the Minister tells us they spend an average of \$8,873 per month on maintenance, but there are some increases under this Item as well, and I wonder if any investigations have been carried out or if these increases were just accepted. In the same way, at Item 68 there is an increase of \$13,545. Is it a case where the Government has just sat idly by and accepted that a car costs an increase of \$6,000 more or whatever the figure given is? I well remember that the Government not so long ago – or rather, the then Minister of Trade – made an excursion into this car pricing business; what has been the result of all this? I have been told since then that vehicles imported to this island cost more than when the Minister made enquiries into the matter, they are being sold at higher prices to the consumer, and this is an increase of \$13,545. I feel that this is a case the Minister should investigate, and I would like to hear what has been done, if anything at all, in this matter.

In the case of these beds and pillows, I believe the Minister is in a position to tell us if they are of local manufacture, and if not, why not, but if they are manufactured locally and there has been an increase in the contract price, what has occasioned this increase? Is it a case that has been brought about by increased wages to the workers? If it is a case where we are just asked to support a Resolution of this sort where the workers in this industry are still getting starvation wages, let the Minister tell us. Is it a case then where the workers have had an increase and their increase is part of the cause for the request for increasing the contract price? All of these things we would like to know, and we are sure the Minister will be willing to offer some sort of explanation. I do not think there is any other point on this particular Head which I would like to worry the Minister about.

Mr. FORDE: Mr. Chairman, this is the first occasion I have had in this House to speak under any Item affecting the the Police Service of this

island, and I should like therefore to preface my remarks by saying that this country is very fortunate indeed in having an outstanding Police Force which could hold its own with any Force in the Caribbean and certainly other Commonwealth countries. I say so with the deep knowledge that these are men who have really done a very difficult job, they are called upon to render all sorts of services and even sometimes being midwives when they have to collect women in the ambulances on the streets, they look after the houses of dignitaries in this island, they advise people sometimes in marital matters, they work in the immigration service in this country and they carry out the very difficult task of prosecuting sometimes against people with legal qualifications who are practising barristers.

5.10 p.m.

I should wish that if members are debating the police they should be deeply conscious of the fact that in a country like ours where we do not have military force, I think we can say that it is because of the civility and great sense of dedication of the Police Force that we have been able to keep the country, to a large extent, stable. I know it is usual for the Government and the Ministers to take to themselves the credit of their Departments, and likewise, I hope they take the criticisms when they come. I think we should, in this House as men, acknowledge that we are very lucky indeed in having this body of policemen.

There is only one Item under Head 27 to which I would like to speak specifically and it is not in any criticism; it is probably to offer some suggestion to the Minister, although I think he is already getting on top of his Department and deeply conscious of this. It is an undoubted fact that the bulk of the prosecutions in this country are done by Sargeants in the Service and certainly by some Inspectors. They do have a most difficult task, and I think the time has come when we should recognise this and institute a system of training for members of the Police Force and particularly those who are concerned with Court matters - not only limited courses that are carried on at the Police Training School, but we should use the full benefits of the University of the West Indies. This calls to mind the fact that I think, at the level of the Cabinet, it is about time we get a decision so that policemen who go on leave to study law at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies will have no less generous conditions as are given, for instance, to teachers and other persons. I think that this is so, because as has happened to one person who went abroad and returned and has recently been

promoted, it can be seen that their efficiency in this respect will be improved. I commend this to the Minister, if he has not already started to attend to this matter.

Although I said I would speak only on this Head, I should like to follow the hon. member for St. Peter who has just sat down and refer to the Criminal Branch. We must recognise in this country that within the last 20 years we have had tremendous development taking place. (*Asides*) Not 10 years but 20 years, Mr. Chairman. There is no magic figure about 10, but my history began a little before that of hon. members on the other side, and I think I understand the matter better than they do. Within the last 20 years there has been this increase in building not only in the private sector, but in the public sector. For instance, the building which is now the main Ministerial Headquarters, which must be policed at night, was constructed before 1961. I am using that as one example, Sir. Likewise if you look down the West Coast in the Sunset Crest area, since there is Sandy Lane there has been a tremendous increase in households. Now, this is taxing the strength of the Police Force. There is no point in getting up and saying that the Commissioner of Crime or the Assistant Commissioner of Crime gave us a particular type of figure. The basic fact is that he is now having to manage and manage in a very difficult way tremendously more houses, and increase in people who are becoming more sophisticated in criminal methods, and in this respect he is very right, and in some respects the Criminal Branch is operating under laws that are long since outdated and should be changed.

There is no doubt that we have a growing drug problem here which the police are managing, and at times there are bringing people before the Court, but because of a defect in the Drugs Act they cannot get a conviction. Although some of us may go into Court and do our duty as lawyers, yet as citizens we have to be deeply conscious of this. When one is going to criticise a particular policeman - I do not matter from which side he comes - I have always maintained that in this House when I think that there is a civil servant who should be defended and I feel strongly on it I will say so. I should like to go personally on record as saying that I consider that the Criminal Branch particularly are doing their duty under very difficult circumstances.

The other point I should like to make is that it is about time that a lot of these householders, who are doing major developments in Barbados, pay for the type of service that they are getting at

the expense of the other taxpayers through the Police Service. Let me take Sunset Crest Development in particular. It is an open secret that their own security is very slack. Mr. Chairman, I know many people who have keys to various houses and have no entitlement to these houses (*Asides*) I hear asides, Sir, and I am wondering whether this is an acknowledgement from the other side about these keys. It is easy therefore, in that context to find many more increases in breaking and entering and other crimes of violence like sexual assault on people in the context of the St. James Coast.

I would recommend to the Minister recommending in special areas where they want special services that there should be an increase in the cost of these special services, and that, when development is taking place on that type of level, the developers should consider in their overall cost having some Special Security Guards and probably using, if they are really interested in the Island as a whole, the aegis of the Special Constables who are controlled by the police themselves so that they would increase the efficiency.

Now, citizens of this country must recognise that they have a duty to help themselves, and by helping themselves they will help the Government of a country. I am not talking about political parties, because in the last resort it is each one of us who have to pay for these defects. That is why when I hear a particular civil servant being singled out for treatment, I am always very skeptical of having him specifically dealt with where the ills are really ills of principle. I am sorry that hon. members who might follow me might say that I might appear to disagree. It is well known that I speak my mind. The hon. member for St. Michael West knows that I speak my mind no matter what he says when he is ready to say it. I speak my mind on matters of principle; therefore, as a matter of principle, I should like to say that we are in duty bound to commend the police and to appeal to every citizen in this country to give them the help which they need. They can be no better unless we come forward and give them adequate information confidentially. I am well satisfied that you can pass on information to them as a citizen and it will be treated in a confidential manner. It does not matter who may be the person involved or his political opinion, in the last resort we have to depend on the police as guardians of our property, as guardians of our life, and in other respect. It is in this light that I would like members to think of the Resolution and not to bring the Resolution to the level of, probably, attacking any particular policeman.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to hear what the hon. member for Chirst Church West had to say, because some lawyers who are members of this Chamber, when they cannot win a case in Court, take pleasure in coming here and subjecting policemen to all of the ills of the community.

5.20 p.m.

Now when the hon. member for St. Peter spoke I was very pleased to hear him say that he is very concerned about the kind of vulgarity and the language that is being spoken on the street. I am sorry he is not in his place for me to commend him for that statement, because what worries me is that this hon. member has had a right-about-turn in his thinking. He is like a Daniel come to judgement, because he was one of those people who ran a paper and the paper was very forthright in this kind of language when it started to teach the people how to use it, and I am very glad that he has seen the light that this vulgar language is no good.

I would say that in this community generally I would like to see the Police Department take a more serious look at this stupid language context that has grown up among intelligent people. Young men especially who have been educated as a matter of course, not through any vexation, but as an ordinary way of expressing themselves, use vulgar language with such relish as a means of showing off. I do not know if that is what Bernard Shaw was thinking of when he said that youth is wasted on young people. You get this temptation with young people today where vulgar language which is so ordinary and out of place is spoken. Sometimes I wonder what is happening. If this is symptomatic of the society, then it would be symptomatic of the Police Force because I want to say that a policeman is part of the society in which he lives. I am not one of those people who believe that you are going to get a policeman in 1972 from Barbados who is going to be different from what Barbados is producing in 1972. He is going to be part and parcel of the Barbadian society, and if he is part of that society where vulgar language is part, he is going to pass it as if it is another expression. For example, young people may be using vulgar language and regard this as the "in thing" and this is the kind of way in which you express yourself, and therefore this way of expressing yourself is part of the young policeman. I believe the young policeman would be part of the "in thing" too. For example, a man was working somewhere, and just to show you what you get, he was wearing a long Afro and the employer said he did not like the way he was wearing his hair; it was too long. The next step he took was to cut off all and he was like Yule

Brynner and the only thing he left was sideburns. His whole idea was that since he was told about wearing his hair long, he would cut it off. You get that. These are the problems you get in a day and age like this. That is only symptomatic of what is going on in the society today.

I met the hon. member for St. Joseph in Antigua last week, and I hope Barbadians will stop this idea of thinking that Barbadians are *ipso facto* superior to what they call small islanders. In some respects all people have produced some brilliant and intelligent people, and this idea that because a man is coming from a place where the Police Force itself might be below Barbados and therefore you cannot get an instructor of high standard has got to stop. The instructor is a man instructing recruits. He is dealing with people who have never been in a Police Force before; so what is the point of saying that because a man is a Sergeant from Antigua or Montserrat he cannot teach the boys in Barbados who have been policemen in their lives for six months.

Another thing is that I do not believe in any field that you can take a raw person and put him in a Police Force and in six months as a recruit, when you loose him on the road you are loosing a policeman, because he has on police clothes and a helmet. Even this morning I saw some and the helmets were not fitting some of them properly. You get a helmet dropping down on a fellow's ear. Maybe it is too big because he did not go any place to try it on and therefore when he gets out in the sun and his head begins to shrink, his helmet drops down and you see half his eyes. As he is a young fellow he does not know how to do it yet, but you know that he is new. One of the problems is that a young policeman doing traffic has to form fours first because they taught him to drill, and before he would tell you to come on with the traffic, he has to form fours. After a couple of months he will learn, but you are not going to blame him because he forms fours first. He has to go through the mills and do one, two three just as if you teach something and you tell someone to let you hear the third verse, but he has to sing the first two verses first.

Mr. Chairman, I am not one of those people who believe in hurting the police, and I agree with what the hon. member for Christ Church West said. In a general way I would say that the policeman in this country needs more encouragement from the community as a whole. I find that the community is only willing to encourage a policeman when something happens to a particular person or his family. Lawyers know, and there are three there on

the other side now, that the Barbadian of all classes is the most difficult person to get any evidence from. They know everything that has happened until the policeman comes, and then they are told to keep their mouths shut, and that it is none of their business, and whether they want the old house burnt down. You therefore find that a policeman is expected without any evidence to play God. He must go and unearth some evidence and some truth from nowhere for the lawyers to take him to pieces when he goes before the Court.

Mr. Chairman, I have seen the operation of policemen in other communities. In the United States a policeman does not talk as much as our policemen do. They speak in different words and then you know what the battle is. In Latin America it is worse. In Venezuela a policeman does not ask you anything. He tells you to move, get down off that wall. Unlike people going to cricket or football here and climbing up on walls, you do not climb up on walls in Venezuela because when a policeman gives you a wave to come down, you would not get a second wave, you would be coming down.

5.30 p.m.

In Barbados the average citizen wants to beat a policeman if he stops a man for riding without a light on a bicycle and tries to tell the policeman how to do his duty. It is true the Police Force is growing more intelligent because in the early days the first qualification of a policeman was that he had to be big and the second one was that he had to be ignorant. I heard the hon. member speak about the Assistant Commissioner's talk on crime, but there is little point in saying that crime is more sophisticated, although it is a fact. Some people are even afraid to call in the Police if they have visitors during the night, and this is one of the consequences of development. The more a society develops the more you are going to get people more adept at crime, and the policemen have to be more alert. I am still pleased that we live in a small community; for example, all of us as members of this Chamber have a freedom in a way that can be compared with any part of the world. We know Ministers can walk and drive anywhere here without any special protection attached to them, the Prime Minister goes all about in a general way, his person is not attacked, but we know in some communities this is not possible, so it must be that the society is a more civilised society, and in a general way the policemen must have been integrated within the society that life goes on this way.

I think, Mr. Chairman, you had an example here some two months ago where there was one of the biggest demonstrations, passions could have come high but nothing went wrong, so it shows

that the society is not a violent society and I feel that the aspects that have been raised by other members who have spoken and by myself about the unnecessary use of vulgar language in the society need to be curbed. Sometimes I feel people do it on purpose, and it is in this light that we fail by example to curb it. It is not a vicious crime, but we should have general respect for each other. I support the view that our Police Department is a Department for all of us, and especially those of us in public life, we have a duty to perform in seeing to it that these men and this Department are given the best in order that the rule of law is respected.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the remarks made by the member for Christ Church West as regards the efficiency of the Police Force. I am one who believes that it is necessary in this community to have a very modern and efficient Police Force, and from time to time during the short period that I have been in here I have done my best to defend and to agree with measures designed to ensure that the Force reaches that degree of efficiency. However, when the member for Christ Church West says that the public must also help the Police, I say this by way of a genuine criticism of the Police, that what is needed in the Police Force is somebody to work the public relations aspect of the Force. This is absolutely needed, because I remember coming out of Central Police Station one day, and there was a young Police Officer standing guard, somebody came up the road and did something, the Police Officer had occasion to speak to him but he spoke to the young chap in such an abrupt way that a Sergeant who was standing nearby went to him and told him he should not speak to the public like that.

I think that you will find that if the Police approach a man and he makes the man feel offended by the way he was approached, at a later stage when you expect that man to give assistance to the Police he is not going to be willing to give that assistance. I think the Police should approach members of the public in a civilised manner, and I agree that in some countries it is even worse but I think the day has gone when Barbadians in any particular district look up to the Police Sergeant as somebody to be respected in that district. This may very well be helped by the public relations aspect of the Force, and I would say to the Government that this could be investigated. If you are going to have a proper Police Force and you want the community to assist, I think the relationship between the Police Force at all stages and the community must be one of ideal trust, and it can only come about if there is complete confidence and trust, if there is a proper working relationship between the Police and the public. I

know that one of the areas where you get trouble naturally is in the Housing Areas, because they are low income housing areas that have all the problems that are associated with this type of development, and this is probably why it has become necessary in larger countries to do away with any large scale housing areas for low income people and have them more integrated in society, so that when you find that a lot of the cases coming before the Courts come out of the housing areas, I think that in this aspect there is need for the Police to be respected in the housing areas and you can only get it this way if the Police will work and build up confidence and trust among the people in the district.

5.40 p.m.

Today if some people see a policeman and they feel like cursing they will do so, because they have no respect for him, and if they want to get information the people will not give it to them. The postman is on better terms with people living in the housing areas than a police officer. I have been told by people older than myself that years ago a police sergeant in a district was a man who was respected, but the position is not so today.

Sir, with the shift of the population, particularly in St. Michael, and with the establishment of the housing areas one of the things that the Government should have looked into is the question of the resiting of police stations. For instance, District A, Station Hill, controls the Pine area and so on. You will find that the time has come when police stations should be situated more conveniently to the way in which the population has shifted.

The hon. member for St. Peter spoke about police cars passing through districts, but it is difficult to ask a policeman who is stationed at District A to patrol on foot through an area like the Pine and go as far as Sargeant Village. I think the Government may find it necessary to put a police station in that area. I use that as an example without going into details to show that a police station should be here and one should be there. I feel that police stations should be sited to take care of the new housing developments in St. Michael.

Sir, I believe that I was the person who made a speech in here suggesting that there should be a female Inspector in the Police Force. At the time I said that the idea was to develop the female section of the Police Force to thirty or thirty-five women who would be responsible directly to a female Inspector. I know that there is a lot of dissatisfaction at the moment, because instead of having a female Inspector appointed solely to deal with the female section of the Police Force, the

female Inspector is required to deal with the general section of the Police Force. I think that is, probably, contrary to the conditions that exist in the other Islands where the female section of the Force is probably separate. The Minister may investigate this matter. He may hear grumbling from some sources, but, as the hon. member for Christ Church West has said, we cannot afford to have a disgruntled and dissatisfied Police Force in this country, because the Police Force in this country have to maintain law and order.

I am making this suggestion again: let us have the female section of the Police Force separate from the male section of the Force where the female section will be responsible to the female officers of the Force and the female officers will have no control over the male section of the Police Force. (*Asides*) It is true that there is only one female Inspector, but the hon. member must keep his ears to the ground and he will know the dissatisfaction that exists as regards that one.

Sir, if we are to have an efficient Police Force, I believe and I would suggest to the Minister that, at the rank of Inspector, there should be some sort of aptitude test for those people who are appointed as Inspectors. In other words, like most other things, a man may specialise in a certain field. If a man is going to be appointed an Inspector and he want to go into the Immigration Department, then he should specialise in the Immigration field and should be able to go up to Assistant Commissioner responsible for Immigration. There is no sense in having a man who has an aptitude for detection work being put in the Traffic Branch purely because somebody does not like him. He should be able to move from Inspector in the C.I.D. right up to Assistant Commissioner responsible for Crime. If he has an aptitude for general administration in the Police Force, then he should be able to go right up to Assistant Commissioner dealing purely and simply with the administration side of the Police Force. The same thing will hold good for Traffic in particular, because the Traffic problem today is such that in St. Joseph you have cars marked 015 something, and that is an indication of the number of vehicles on the road.

Sir, I feel that for the appointment of Inspectors there should be an aptitude test, so that people would be able to branch off to a field in which they have a certain aptitude. This would mean, and I have no doubt the Minister would be considering this, an increase in the establishment of the Police Force. For instance, as you now have Assistant Commissioner Crime; Assistant Commissioner Uniform Branch; he may well feel that the need may arise to have an Assistant

Commissioner Administration, or an Assistant Commissioner Immigration or something like that. Obviously, there is need, at this stage, for more posts to be created from the point of view of Assistant Commissioners. I look forward although the Minister has no responsibility for this – and hope that the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police will be filled with the same dispatch as the post of Commissioner of Police was filled.

I had occasion, as a result of certain remarks made when the Commissioner resigned – (*Asides.*) I refer to a new item which came over CBC which suggested that there was some misunderstanding between the former Commissioner of Police and the Government.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order, Sir. We are dealing purely and solely with Supplementary Estimates, and for that reason I must say that Your Honour has been very tolerant in that the principle of all of these Heads has been definitely and absolutely agreed on when we dealt with the Estimates. These are Supplementary Estimates on which Your Honour has allowed a great amount of latitude. What are we dealing with now? Do you want us to deal with everything about the Police that you can dig up?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I think the Minister of Home Affairs will appreciate what I am saying as well as the Minister of Communications and Works.
5.50 p.m.

All I was trying to say is simply this: as a result of a stupid news item, it is necessary after a long time for the Commissioner of Police to make some statement publicly. What I would have like to see was the Minister of Home Affairs, before the Commissioner did that, making a statement because I know a lot of policemen were asking what was wrong. I see the Minister is anxious to reply and I will give way to him.

Dr. the HON. R. B. CADDLE: Mr. Chairman, it is rather refreshing to hear the commendations made by hon. members on the Police Force, and as a person myself who has travelled very much in Africa and Asia and seen what obtains there when the police have failed to do their duty, I can say that no amount of praise is sufficient to shower upon the police in this Island, and we hope that people will continue to see the importance of a well functioning Police Force within the context of Barbados. The items which have been put up for adoption as part of this Resolution only constitute another measure in maintaining the efficiency of the Police Force. I will grant that there may be some grounds to say that there is some need for an improvement in the efficiency of the Police Force

and I would like to assure hon. members that the Government is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the efficiency of the Police Force is not only maintained, but also increased and that the Government is well aware of the needs of this society especially since we have become independent since 1966, because the needs of a country when it is independent are a lot different from the needs when it is a colony. One of the things, which make the work of the police very difficult in Barbados, is attitudes. There are many people in Barbados who have not yet adjusted to the conditions that Barbados is now an independent country, and until such people make their right adjustments, we are likely to continue to have the type of problems which frustrate not only the police, but very often frustrate the functioning of the Government itself.

Without any further ado, I would like to make some reference to some points raised by the previous speakers. I would like to say from the point of view of information that special constables are usually island constables who are employed as watchmen at homes of Ministers of Government and senior Government officials who go overseas on Government business. I think there has been some misconception about the role or who is a special constable, and I hope that information will help to clarify that.

On the question of recruitment and training, I would like to say that the Police Regional Training Centre is not the property of the Barbados Government alone. It is a regional affair and we cannot do anything there without the agreement of the people in the other Islands, and therefore this is a matter which we hope cannot be just discussed from the point of view of Barbados alone. This is a matter which would have to be settled by having constant and repeated discussions and reaching some form of agreement with the people in the other Islands.

On the question of expenditure on photography, we should all know what is involved because we have to get the solutions to develop the films, we have to buy the films, bulbs and so many things, and as you will all be very well aware, the cost of many things in Barbados has gone up. I know that many people are critical of the Government and at the same time I do not want them to feel that we are sleeping on this issue, but this issue is one that cannot be rectified overnight. To attempt to bring over any dramatic changes overnight may only result in gross dissatisfaction in the community. This has to be studied and proper measures adopted and implemented as the Government sees fit. So I do not want people to feel for one moment that we are not aware of the fact that

many things in this country are going up, but until something efficient has been done about that, meanwhile we will have to pay at the prices which the suppliers of these commodities ask. I do not think Government could on one side especially in a democratic set-up say they are not going to pay them this if they are asking that price for it, they are going to pay less, and I do not think it is the intention of the people on the other side when they are criticising the price which we pay for these things.

On the question of maintenance of vehicles, again the question of the cost of articles in Barbados come into play. The cost of these articles is going up, and there are no grounds to say that because the Government has instituted some sort of restriction on the mark-up of gains, say, on motor cars last year that the price would not go up this year. What we have attempted to do is to make sure that there is no steep increase in the price of motorcars to suit the whims and fancies of people who deal in them, but we have to admit that if the price of the commodity goes up in the country of origin and the freight and maybe insurance go up and maybe also the wages go up, the price of the commodity to the consumer, and in this case the Government is a consumer, would likewise have to go up.

Now I have made note of some of the recommendations made by the hon. members, but I would like to assure them that already in my Ministry certain steps are being taken to bring about some of these things which have been recommended, and you will in due course see the results of the steps which have been taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to rectify any defect which may obtain in the Police Force. Without any more ado, I would like to commend to the House that this stand part of the Resolution.

The question that Head 27 - Police - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head 30 - Prisons - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, there are two items I want to elaborate on to give a little more information: Item 14 - provisions and Items 18 - Office Expenses.

Under Item 14, an amount of \$39,000 was provided under this Item to meet the cost of rations for prisoners, materials used in the making of bread and also the cost of special diet for sick prisoners. Bills totalling \$13,050 for expenditure

incurred during the financial year 1970-71 had to be met from the provision in the current year's Estimates thereby causing a more rapid depletion of funds. At the 31st December, 1971, the sum of \$25,155.93 was spent leaving a balance of \$13,844.07 from which commitments totalling \$11,669.72 have to be met. The amount remaining totals \$2,174.35, and that amount is considered inadequate. Supplementary Estimates of \$10,825 is therefore required.

On Item 18 - Office Expenses - an amount of \$10,850 was provided under this Item in the current year's estimates. At 31st December, 1971, \$10,684.15 was spent leaving a balance of \$165.85. Proportionate expenditure is \$9,041.65. Present commitments total \$2,290.77. The reason for the expenditure of funds under this is that claims amounting to \$5,315.18 for expenditure incurred during the financial year 1970-71 were paid from funds in the current year's Estimates. It is estimated that an amount of \$5,500 would be adequate to take care of claims in hand and other commitments to the end of the financial year. These are the two main items.

I beg to move that Head 30 - Prisons - stand part.

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

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

Head 44 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 44 - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Commerce - stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$116,215 do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: 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. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, this now concludes Government Business for today's sitting. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 22nd February, 1972 at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

6.05 p.m.